

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024CC001
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Name of Service:	Generation Education
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Address of Service:	7 The Crescent, Mill Road, Midleton, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P25TH29
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Name of Registered Provider:	Irene Heredia
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	11
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	M. O' Reilly
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect	
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).	
Conditions if applicable	N/A

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Description of service

Generation Education is a newly established early years service that opened in January 2024. It is a privately owned full day care service, that also provides part time and sessional care. It is registered to accommodate a maximum of 33 children aged 2 to 6 years. The service caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm each day Monday to Friday. The service also operates a school aged care service.

The service is located in a residential building, a large space on the ground floor has been accommodated to operate a childcare service. The service consists of three playrooms named the yellow, blue and green rooms and a small room known as the gym room, a staff kitchen, a staff room and administration office. There is an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear side of the service.

Staffing

There are five staff employed to work directly with the early years children in the service. There are two additional staff employed that operate the school aged care service and the registered provider. The registered provider and the adults who work directly with the early years children all hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

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This inspection was announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider/ person in charge, deputy, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

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(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The registered provider is the named person in charge.

(b) The registered provider/ person in charge and the deputy were present when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty until the end of the inspection.

(2)

Eight staff files were reviewed. This included the registered provider, five childcare staff and the two staff who work with the school aged children each evening.

(a) There were thirteen references on file from past employers in respect of the adults.

(b) There were three references from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the eight adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Five of the six police vetting records were available on file for the six adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more, while over the age of eighteen years.

(4)

The five adults who worked directly with the children all held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(d) A police clearance record for one staff member, who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period of greater than six consecutive months, was not available on file.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- In the registered provider written response to the non-compliance she has stated that the employee is no longer working in the service therefore no longer applicable.

Supporting documentation submitted

- The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

- Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 9 (2) (d) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- The registered provider ensured that there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- The registered provider ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to as follows: In addition, the registered provider was present.
 - The green room – there were 4 children aged between 2 years 7 months and 3 years 6 months with 2 adults in attendance.
 - The yellow room – there were 11 children all aged between 3 and 6 years with 2 adults in attendance.
 - The blue room – there were 4 children all aged between 3 and 6 years with 2 adults in attendance.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

Compliance Information

(i) A weekly staff roster was maintained in the service. The staff roster record indicated the staff rostered in each room and the time they went on breaks.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- There was a calm and engaging atmosphere across the service. Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their sense of safety and security in the setting.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children within the care rooms outside of allocated mealtimes.
- Staff were attentive to the personal care needs of the children, assisting with cleaning their noses etc.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The registered provider advised the inspector that the service operated in partnership with parents, with an online application to send pictures/ information for the parents. Main communication with parents and guardians is at drop off and collection times.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.

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Physical and Material Environment

- The three rooms in operation were child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out with interest areas with materials largely accessible to the children.
- Interest areas included soft area, book area, kitchen, fine motor skills area, dolls and cots.
- Pictures of the family were on the wall. Childrens recent colouring and artwork were on display.
- An adequate number of child sized tables and chairs were available in each room.
- The rooms had designated cosy corner for children to rest and relax as required. In addition, the service had individual sleep mats to facilitate rest for children in the afternoon or as necessary during the day.
- There is an outdoor play area provided beside the premise. The surface in the outdoor play area is mainly consisting of natural grass. The outdoor play area was adequately enclosed and secured with a timber fence and two timber gates. There is a small area within the outdoor play area that is covered. Due to inclement weather the children were unable to play outdoors on day of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The breakfast and mid-afternoon snack consumed on the premise is provided by the service. The mid-morning snack is provided by the parents. The food provided by the parents for the mid-morning snack in the Yellow Room was observed to be healthy, varied and portion size was age appropriate. The registered provider stated that the service avails of an outsourced contracted hot meal service that is served to the children at lunch time each day.
- A fridge located in the kitchen was available for the storage of perishable food provided by the parents for the mid-morning snack.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- On the inspector's arrival at the service, the main entrance door was found to have been secured and was maintained secure when not in use.
- Emergency exit door was unobstructed.
- Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded water temperatures in the wash hand basins in the children's toilets were between 30 C to 35 C on day of inspection.
- On the day of inspection, cleaning equipment and materials were adequately stored out of reach of children.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was noted to be fully enclosed and secured.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities were available across the three care rooms. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were located in individual wall dispensers beside each wash hand basin. Handwashing by the children was observed before the mid-morning snack and lunch in the yellow room.
- Pedal operated bins were in place for the disposal of paper towels.
- Cleaning records were in place in each of the rooms.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were recorded in writing for each sleeping child by the adults.

Administration of Medication:

- The medication maintained at the service was safely stored out of the children's reach.

Fire Safety:

- No fire safety issues were observed.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- Fire drills were conducted monthly.

Non-Compliance Information

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General Safety:

- The children had easy access to the staff room as the staff room door handle was broken and needed repair. The staff room is located beside the yellow playroom. There was a potential safety risk to the children as it was observed on inspection day, that the staff had stored their handbags at child height in the staff room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- In the registered provider written response to the non-compliance she has stated that the staff room door handle in poor repair was removed and replaced with a new door handle.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- The written reply from the registered provider stating the non-compliance was addressed plus a copy of the cost invoice of purchase and labour of installing the new door handle was submitted.

Summary Comment

- Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 23 under General Safety of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

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(1) There were two staff members present on day of inspection with a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR).

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured, with insurance for 33 full day care children and 24 school aged care children valid until 27/03/2025.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(b) safe and secure,

(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(b) From visual inspection the premises appeared safe and secure. The entrance door was adequately secured to prevent unauthorised entry and unsupervised exit of children from the service.

(c) The three care rooms were provided with a combination of natural light, through windows and artificial lighting. Adequate lighting was also in place in the sanitary facilities and passageway, as supplied through artificial lighting. Light fittings were noted to have protective covers installed. The openable windows in the three care rooms allowed for a supply of fresh air. Sanitary areas were ventilated by means of mechanical ventilation.

(d) The service was well maintained and clean on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

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(d) One of the toilet seats in the children's toilet facilities located beside the yellow room was not adequately secure and required repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- In the registered providers written response to the non-compliance she has stated that the toilet seat in poor repair in the children toilet for the children in the yellow room was removed and replaced with a new toilet seat.

Supporting documentation submitted

- The written reply from the registered provider stating the non-compliance was addressed plus a copy of the cost invoice of the purchase and labour of installing the new toilet seat was submitted.

Summary Comment

- Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 29 (d) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.