

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC363				
Name of Service:	The Shine Centre				
Address of Service:	7 Weston View, Ballinrea Road, Carrigaline, Co. Cork				
Eircode:	P43 E392				
Name of Registered Provider:	Paul Mcguirk				
Service type:	Part Time				
Date of Inspection:	24 November 2022				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>12</td> <td>PM</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </table>	AM	12	PM	4
AM	12	PM	4		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	V.McCarthy
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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

The Shine Centre is part of a non-profit National Organisation. The service operates from a section of a two-storey detached house that is in a residential area on the suburbs of Carrigaline town. It provides a part time service to children that require specialist pre-school early intervention services. Downstairs, there are four main rooms, namely the Front room, the Back room and two Therapy/Classrooms. Upstairs, there is a large Sensory room used by the children. The building was purposely adapted as a childcare facility for children that require a specialist service. There is an office area used by the adults located upstairs. There is a developed outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises. The service is registered to cater for children aged between two and six years. It provides a morning and afternoon session with opening times between 9.00 – 13.00 hours and 13.30 - 17.30 hours.

Staffing

The service is carried out by 12 adults that work directly with the children. The registered provider is not service based. On the day of inspection, five adults were working directly with the children and a sixth adult was office based.

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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections 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 person in charge, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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

(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 service had a named manager and a deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) The deputy was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and the person in charge arrived within a few minutes and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

There were four new adults working at the service since the previous inspection carried out on 28 February 2020 and therefore the inspector focussed on these files to assess vetting.

(a) There were six references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the four adults.

(b) There were two references and required validations available on file from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each adult.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of one adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the four adults.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Compliance Information

(1)
The Person in Charge always ensured, that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)
On the day of inspection there were four children aged over three years attending the service with five adults directly caring for them. The Person in Charge remained office based and was available to assist with the Inspector's queries. The adult child ratio exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

(8)
(a) The register indicated that at least two adults were always on the premises.

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

(1)(a)

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The children carried out their work activities such as picture exchange and peg/straw/block play at individual workstations where each child was facilitated to focus without distractions on the job in hand.
- There were key adults assigned to each child that spoke reassuringly and positively to them. The adults sat with the children during their work activities, play activities and at meal breaks.
- Some small group activities were also facilitated to assist the children develop their socialisation skills.
- Each child's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults who assisted, guided, reassured, and praised the children as they carried out their activities.
- It was noted that the adults instilled confidence in the children and provided them with a sense of familiarity that was facilitated by aids such as routine, picture cards and positive reassurance.
- A holistic individual care plan in respect of each child was constantly being re-evaluated and updated by the services' team who worked together with each child's parents or guardians.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. General Information regarding the services' activities was provided to parents and guardians verbally, electronically and by means of social media.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily and formal meetings were arranged regularly regarding their respective child.

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:

- The main entrance door to the service was secured by a lock.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fences and by secured gates.

- The radiators were fitted with protective covers.
- The water from the hot taps was thermostatically controlled to a temperature less than 43°C. During the inspection the water temperature was recorded at 29.1°C.
- The fluorescent lighting was covered with protective covers.
- The handrail positioned beside the stairway was fitted at child height.
- Stair gates were fitted at the top and foot of the stairs.
- All cleaning agents were stored on high shelves that were inaccessible to the children.
- Doors had high fitted handles positioned out of children's reach and keys to doors were stored on high hooks adjacent to the respective door.
- Windows were fitted with window restrictors.
- All blind cords were safely secured by wall brackets.
- Visibility strips were provided on all low glass panelled doors.
- All medicines were stored on top of a secured wall cabinet that was stored out of children's reach.
- All low presses were kept secured and accessible to the children
- High presses were anchored securely.
- All leads and flexes were kept out of children's reach.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The person in charge informed the inspector that the care rooms were cleaned each morning and afternoon by the adults. Also, a person whose sole duty was cleaning visited the service three times weekly and carried out a deep clean of the premises.
- Detailed cleaning records were available for review.
- It was noted that the premises, toys, play materials and work equipment in each room used by the children were clean and laid out in a clearly labelled and interesting manner.
- Hand washing by the children was carried out before eating and after using the toilet and outdoor play.
- A supply of warm water, pedal operated bins, liquid soap, paper towels and hand sanitiser were available throughout the service for hygienic hand washing and hand drying.
- Disposable gloves and disposable aprons were provided for the adults when attending to the children's nappy changes.
- A supply of disposable paper tissues was available for use by the children, and the adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help the children as required.

- Fridges were available in the kitchen to store the children’s perishable foods.
- The children’s coats and personal belongings were kept stored off the floor on wall hooks or on shelving.

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

(1)
The service provided evidence that nine of the adults had First aid Response (FAR) training and that one of these adults was always on the premises for the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
(a) There were two first aid boxes provided and each one was stored on a high wall mounted bracket out of children’s reach in the Front and Back care rooms respectively.
(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There were records of monthly fire drills carried out at the premises available on file for review. The records demonstrated that the last fire drill was carried out on 09 November 2022.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was available. It was recorded that the fire equipment and wired smoke alarm were both serviced during August 2022.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each care room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The services insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured to cover 15 children at any one time on the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding fire, theft and public liability cover, the start date which was 28 October 2022 and the end date which was 27 October 2023.