

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY221

Name of Service: SALI Childcare Services Ltd.

Address of Service: Mercy Primary School
St. Francis Street
Galway City

Email Address: manager@salichildcare.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Mr Myles Mc Hugh

Type of service registered: Full Day Care

Date of Inspection: 0 8 0 2 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM N/A PM 2

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla – Child and Family Agency,
Early Years Inspectorate,
Quality Assurance Directorate,
Clinical & Administration Building,
Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor),
Merlin Park,
Galway,
Co. Galway.

Inspection undertaken by : F Nic Dhonnacha
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety

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

<p>Description of Service</p>	<p>The premises is located in the centre of Galway city. This preschool service operates from the ground floor of a primary school, with 3 childcare rooms namely the ‘Inventor’s Preschool room 1’ and the ‘Explorer’s Preschool room 2’, in the main building, with the ‘Discoverer’s Preschool room 3’ located in an extension to the side of the main building. The service offers a full day care, part time care service, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme (9.30hrs to 12.30hrs) and sessional care programme. Additionally, a breakfast club, happy hour and afterschool programme is provided for school-aged children. The preschool caters for a maximum of 57 children at any one time, from Monday to Friday between 8:00hrs and 18.00hrs, for children aged between 2 years and 6 months and 6 years. Quiet rest areas are available in each of the childcare rooms for children to rest and relax or opt out of an activity if he/she choose to. Stackable beds are available to facilitate children requiring sleep provision. There is a designated kitchen where the meals and snacks for children are stored, prepared and re heated on site. The service has a designated chef. The service has arranged for food to be delivered chilled, in batches from a dedicated food company. There are 2 secure outdoor sheltered play areas, located to the rear and side of the building, for play activities, exploration and fresh air. The children also have access to an indoor sports hall. A play based preschool curriculum focusing on play and emerging interests is provided.</p>
<p>Staffing</p>	<p>The registered provider is not working in the service on a daily basis. There is a person in charge and 2 named persons available to deputise when and if necessary. There are 14 adults working in the premises, with 10 adults working directly with the children holding at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. Additionally, there is a designated chef, a cleaner and a maintenance person. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.</p>
<p>Methodology</p>	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff

	<p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. As a result the scope of the inspection included the ‘Inventor’s Preschool room 1’ and did not include ‘Explorer’s Preschool room 2’, or ‘Discoverer’s Preschool room 3’.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Acknowledgements</p>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

<p>Compliance Information:</p>	<p>(2)</p> <p>Since the last inspection, 8 adults had commenced in the service.</p> <p>(a) & (b) 16 of the 16 written validated references on file in respect of 8 adults were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.</p> <p>(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 8 of the adults.</p> <p>(d) Police vetting was available for 2 of the adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age</p>
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

of 18 years.

(7)

(a) From observation and interview, staff were provided with appropriate information and training on the service policies and procedures, including those revised to address COVID-19 in relation to infection control, risk management, the incident plan and revised drop off and collection procedures in the service.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school Service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:

The inspection focused on the following policies and procedures: -

- Risk management policy
- Drop off and collection procedures
- Infection control policy
- Correct procedures for hand washing
- Procedures for cleaning and infection control

These policies and procedures were reviewed and revised to respond to COVID-19. The said policies and procedures were communicated electronically to the parents/guardians and to the staff prior to the service re-opening on June 29th 2020. A hard copy of each of the policies and procedures was available on the premises in a designated folder.

Parents/guardians and staff confirmed in writing that they had read and accepted the policies and procedures.

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:

(1) The staff rosters and 'pod' tracking logs reviewed indicated an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. The adult / child ratio was correct and maintained on the inspection day.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection. On the day of inspection, 3 adults were working directly with and caring for 2 preschool children.

The children were aged between 3 years and 6 months and 4 years.

An additional 6 school age children attended the services school age programme.

Additionally, the manager was supernumerary, assisted as childcare relief and with the administration part of the inspection.

There was also a designated chef from 11.00hrs to 15.00hrs.

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 into the pre-school was secured with a buzzer access system / intercom, to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured, so that unauthorised persons could not access the area.
- The doors into the kitchen, office, utility room, staff toilets and storage areas had a system of security.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach within the childcare rooms, the utility, within the sanitary accommodation and within the nappy changing area.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Children access the outdoor play area on a daily basis, children were observed running, playing chasing games along with water play and painting in the outdoor space.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- Radiators were fitted with protective covers in each childcare rooms.
- On the day of inspection, the room temperature in the 'Inventor's Preschool room 1' where children played was maintained at 20°C.
- All children were offered the main meal of pasta bolognaise, which was supplied by a food delivery company. The chef ensured that the meals were stored and cooked on site in the kitchen.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

- The service had a designated secure staff room where adults stored their personal belongings and consumed their hot drinks and meals. Staff wore a uniform.
- The adult staff clearly identified to the inspector the 'drop off' and 'collection' procedures for the children.
- Attendance records were completed daily for both the staff / children attending the preschool.
- On reviewing the staff roster for the week, the staff and children were allocated to a 'pod' in line with public health measures.
- A record of visitors to the preschool service was maintained and included a COVID-19 safety questionnaire/agreement.
- The person in charge completed a daily risk assessment.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of 30.5°C.
- A supply of hand sanitiser was available at the side entrance gate, at the entrance to the preschool and at 'stations' in the childcare rooms and in the outdoor play areas.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after playing outdoors and on entry / exiting the preschool service.
- Staff were observed using the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving their respected pod / childcare room and in the outdoor area.
- A supply of tissues was readily available indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- On the day of inspection, table tops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant.
- There was 1 designated nappy changing area and an airtight sealable bin for the disposal of nappies. The mat was clean and intact.
- The children's barrier creams were individually labelled and in designated storage bags within the nappy changing areas. On the day of inspection, no child was wearing a nappy.
- Waste disposal in the sanitary areas and playrooms, was stored in foot pedalled lidded bins and thereby inaccessible to the pre-school children.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

- Children had a spare set of clothes available if required and were stored in secure wipeable bags which were hung on allocated hangers in the childcare room.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that cleaning supplies, disinfectant and hand sanitizers were monitored and replenished when required.
- The play equipment, materials and furnishings were in a good state of repair and were clean. The early years inspector was shown the revised daily/ weekly cleaning schedules to respond to COVID-19 that detailed the cleaning and sterilising of toys including mouthed toys, furniture, fixtures / fittings, linen and soft furnishings.
- The soft matting, seating, cushions, rugs, bunting and items hanging from the childcare rooms ceilings were clean and included in the daily cleaning schedules.
- When questioned the staff displayed an understanding of the requirement relating to COVID-19 related symptoms and the associated risks (close contacts and international travel from a 'red' zone country), the requirement to self-isolate and or quarantine and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment, correct hand / respiratory hygiene practices and suitable physical distancing practices.

SAFE SLEEP:

- There was child size soft seating, a couch, cushions and mats where children could rest or relax in the playroom.
- The service had 15 stackable beds to provide a child attending with the opportunity to sleep. On the day of inspection, no child required sleep.
- The children attending the service have relaxation / yoga time each day after lunch time.
- Rest/ quiet areas were provided in the childcare rooms to facilitate a child to rest relax or opt out of an activity if he or she choose to.