

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE042
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Name of Service:	Edel Greene
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Address of Service:	Ballyellry, Liscannor, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 AT80
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Name of Registered Provider:	Edel Greene
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	31/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	A.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

Edel Greene is a childminding service located in a rural location on the outskirts of Liscannor, County Clare. The service operates from the owner's home in a single storey dwelling. Care is facilitated Monday to Friday from 08:15 to 17:15 for children ranging in age from six months to six years. An enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the owner's home for use by the children.

Staffing

On the 31 July 2024 the childminder was present and worked directly with the children in attendance. An emergency contact is available within a close distance in the event of an emergency.

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 and safety. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 12, 19, 23 and 28. 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.

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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, the emergency contact person and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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*
- (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 childminder was the designated person in charge and an emergency contact was available within close proximity of the service.

(b)

During the inspection the registered childminder was present.

(2)(a)

Two written references were available. These references were sourced from a past employer.

(b)

Two written references were available, the references were obtained from a source other than a past employer.

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(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the registered childminder and the emergency contact person. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was not required in respect of the registered childminder and the emergency contact person.

(4)

The registered childminder held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

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

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider worked directly with the children attending the childminding service.

(8)(b)

An emergency contact person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is available at all times, within close distance.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 – Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,*
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and*
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)

The attendance records were reviewed and conformed that five preschool children were enrolled in the service and confirmed that only five preschool children attend at any given time.

(b)

The registered childminder confirmed that no more than two children under fifteen months are in attendance.

(c)

On 31 July 2024 the emergency contact person was present during the inspection. There is a working telephone in the owner's home.

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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)

Basic Needs of Children:

The childminder was caring and considerate to the three children's individual needs and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. Children were comforted and hugged. The children were treated with positive regard and their needs for sleep, play, toileting and food were met. Self-toileting was observed as some of the children attending were independent regarding their toileting needs. Personal cleanliness and hand washing was encouraged and supervised. The children enjoyed freedom of movement throughout the childminder's home. The children are offered beverages, breakfast, a midmorning snack, lunch and dinner daily. During the inspection the children were offered yoghurt as a snack, soup and wraps for lunch and chicken, vegetables and potato for dinner. The children were observed to enjoy playing together with farm and jungle animals, construction building bricks and figurines. The play materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to the children.

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:

- Internal and external access to the childminders home was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the home.
- Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children to attend the childminders home.

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- Electrical items were inaccessible to the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The environment was maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with running water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lined, lidded, pedal operated bin.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals.

Administration of Medication:

- An administration of medication policy was available to inform practice. The registered childminder confirmed that medication is not routinely administered. Documentation is available should medication be required.

Safe Sleep:

- A safe sleep policy was available to inform practice.
- A standard sized cot with suitable bedlinen was available in a room.
- The registered childminder confirmed that sleep observations that included children's position, colour and breathing are undertaken every ten minutes.

Fire Safety:

- A record of completed monthly fire drills was available in the service.
- Fire exit routes and the passageways were clear of all obstructions in the event of an emergency.

Outing:

The registered provider confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate for the service was available.