

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020GY001
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Name of Service:	Elizabeth Ferry
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Address of Service:	6 Sycamore Court, Ballygar, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	F42 HE24
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Ferry
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	10/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM	2
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A. 1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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

This service opened in 2020, providing childminding care for a maximum of 5 pre-school children at any one time. The service operated Monday to Fridays from 8:30am to 5:30pm each day. The childminder's home is located in a semi-detached house in residential housing estate in the village of Ballygar village, Co Galway. The children have access to the living room and kitchen area. The living room is converted into a sleep room when required. The back garden is used as an outdoor play area for the children.

Staffing

The childminder was working with the children daily and there were 2 persons familiar with the operating of the service available and in a position to offer assistance to the childminder 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 Management and Recruitment, Reg 12, Staffing levels, Reg 19 Health, welfare and development of child and reg 15 Record of a preschool child.

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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 childminder and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

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- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
 - (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
 - (c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) The childminder developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service.
- There were 3 children registered with the childminder and all of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors.
- The records contained all of the elements (a) to (l) as outlined above.
- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child ceases to attends the service.

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

- A mid-morning snack of fruit and crackers are served each day at 9.30am ,with fruit, wraps or sandwiches served each day at 12.00pm. At 4pm a hot dinner was given to all children. On the day of inspection, the main meal of the day consisted of chicken, vegetables and mash.
- A change of clothes was available for all children if required. Warm clothes and outdoor gear were available for children when playing outdoors.
- The living room was converted into a sleep room, Children slept on sleep mats. The childminder was observed during the inspection to check regularly on the children while they were sleeping.

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- The children all had individual bed linen and blankets that were stored in individually.
- The children had access to a soft seating in the sitting room and the children were observed to use it on numerous occasions during the inspection.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self toileting was both supported and encouraged by the childminder. Nappy changing facilities were available for the younger children.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The childminder provided a consistent, familiar and welcoming presence for children.
- The childminder's interactions with the children were positive and caring in their approach to the children. Children were listened to and communicated with in an ongoing basis and regularly praised for their efforts.
- The childminder operated in partnership with parents and parents were spoken to each day at collection time in relation to how the children had been all day at the service. The childminder offers a private confidential childcare application 'app' which allows private communication between the childminder and parents / guardians for purposes of daily communication regarding attendance, daily activities, sleep diary, nappy changing diary, observations, and milestones. Medication administration and accident and injury records were also collated by using this childcare application.
- Children were supported to engage positively with each other. Children were encouraged to be helpful, take turns, share resources and negotiate solutions when disputes arose.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The play areas in the dining and living room were organised to provide a number of distinctly separate areas of interest. The playroom was bright and well stocked with toys and play equipment.
- Toys and play materials that promote gross motor, fine motor, cognitive and language development were accessible. A play kitchen, with accessories and a toy farm with animals and small world vehicles were available, with a selection of dolls with prams, all available for the children to play with all times during the day.
- A selection figures, cars, toy animals were available for imaginary play. Building blocks and stickle bricks were accessible for construction play.
- All materials were stored on low level shelving making them accessible to the children at all times. A number of floor activity units were available for the children, they were suitable for the age range and development of the children present.

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- The outdoor play area had a selection of ride on toys, wooden and play houses . There was an outdoor playhouse that was suitably equipped and laid out as a play kitchen. There was a concrete area also that the children could use for the ride on toys and cars.
- Appropriately sized tables and chairs were provided in the kitchen area and children had a choice between table top activities and floor play. The children sat at the low level while they ate their meals, the childminder was observed sitting and chatting to the children while they enjoyed their meals.

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The childminder was available on the day of the inspection and a named person was available to come to the service in the event of an emergency.
- (b) During the period of the inspection, the registered childminder was present on the premises.
- (2)(a) Written references from past employers were available for the childminder and the persons who were available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (b) Written references from a source other than the previous employer were available for the childminder and the persons who were available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered childminder and the persons who were available in the event of an emergency.
- (d) Police vetting was available the childminder and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency that had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) The childminder held a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent
- (6)(a) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for staff retiring by September 2021 was not required.
- (6A) Not applicable as the qualification exemption for an adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model was not required.

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.*
- (2) *A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) On the day of the inspection there were 2 preschool children being cared for by the childminder.
- (b) There were no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months present on the day of the inspection.
- (c) There was a working phone on the premises on the day of inspection.
- (2) Not applicable, there were no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months present on the day of the inspection.