

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC003		
Name of Service:	A Breath of Fresh Air Full Day Care		
Address of Service:	Aghamarta, Carrigaline, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P43 AX75		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ailish Thompson		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	08/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM 19
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		

Description of service

A Breath of Fresh Air Full Day Care is a privately operated service that caters for children aged between six months and six years. It provides full day-care, part-time care, sessional care and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. Daily opening hours are between 8am and 6pm. The service operates from a detached building that was adapted as a childcare facility. There are two care rooms namely the Creche room which is situated on the ground floor and the Junior Montessori room which is situated on the first floor. There is a large outdoor play area that is accessed off the Creche room. There is a designated sleep room for children aged less than two years to use situated beside the Creche room.

Staffing

There are 14 adults attached to the service. The registered provider is not service based. The co-ordinator is based in another service located on the same grounds and visits the service daily. On the day of the inspection there were six adults on the premises, and all were working directly with the children. The co-ordinator visited the service to furnish the inspector with some required documentation.

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 co-ordinator, 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

(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 person in charge and two deputies that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The two deputies were on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- One of the deputies confirmed that two adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 15 August 2022, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a)(b) There were four references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of each of the two adults.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available in respect of one of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the two 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 ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2)

On the day of inspection there were 26 children present on the premises with six adults directly supervising them.

- The Creche room – there were 14 children aged between one and two and half years. One child attended sessional service and 13 children attended part time/ full day care with four adults in attendance.
- The Junior Montessori room – there were 12 children aged over two and half years of which six children attended sessional service and six children attended part time/full day care with two adults in attendance.

(8)(a) The person in charge ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises during the hours of operation. On the morning of the inspection, there were five adults on the premises at 8am when the service opened its doors and the roster demonstrated that there would be three adults on the premises at 6pm.

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

- There were key adults assigned to each care room and the adults were observed to speak positively to the children in their care.
- General Information regarding the services' activities or care given to the children was provided to parents and guardians by means of either notice boards displayed in the main foyer, by emails and by use of duplicate books.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by parents/guardians regarding their respective child.
- Full-service meetings attended by all adults were carried out bi-monthly. Each room at the service carried out weekly meetings to assess, plan and evaluate the activities and care that was provided to the children in their care.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- A designated sleep room was available directly off the Creche room.
- There were six cots provided in the sleep room for any child aged less than two years that required a sleep.
- It was noted that each cot was spaced adequately so that an adult could easily move around and between the cots to attend to the children’s needs.
- Each cot was provided with a washable well-fitting mattress that was washed clean after each child’s use.
- Individual bed linen was available for each child. The children’s linen was stored in individually labelled containers and was laundered on the premises weekly or more often if soiled or not in clean condition.
- The service had a supply of additional clean linen that could be used if required.
- A supply of two stacking beds were available in the Creche room for any child aged over two years of age that may require a sleep. A supply of eight sleep mats were available in the Junior Montessori room for any child that may require a sleep.
- Each care room also had a clearly defined rest area furnished with seating, mats, and cushions that the children could access as they chose for reading, play or quiet time.
- The Creche room was provided with large soft floor mats that facilitated safe crawling by the toddlers.

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 leading into the reception area was secured by a magnetic lock that prevented unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The staff toilet positioned off the main reception area was kept secured and was inaccessible to the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children as it was separated from the dining room by a counter and a secured gate.
- The storage area on the first-floor landing was secured by a gate that prevented access by an unsupervised child.
- Each care room and toilet area had its own cleaning agents which were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and gate that had been newly installed since the previous inspection carried out during 2022.
- Each of the 10 highchairs in the dining room was provided with a safety harness that was in good condition.
- Visibility strips were fitted on the glass panelled doors situated in the Creche room that led to the outdoor play area.
- There were no cords attached to the blinds fixed on the Sleep room glass doors.
- The high shelving unit in the Creche room was anchored securely to the wall.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play, and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 18.2°C during the inspection.
- The nappy changing mats were sanitised after each nappy change.
- The adults wore disposable gloves and apron for each nappy change.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on individual wall hooks.

- Wipes, nappies, and barrier creams were individually labelled and not for communal use.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep room air temperature was maintained between 16°C and 20°C. During the inspection the air temperature was recorded at 18.9°C.
- A space greater than 50cm was maintained between each cot. During the inspection the space between cots was recorded at 55cm.
- The sleeping children were assigned to individual cots and the linen for their respective cot was stored in individually labelled containers.
- An adult stay in the sleep room for long periods to settle and monitor sleeping children. The physical checks on the sleeping children were also recorded on an electronic application every 10 minutes.
- The glass door blinds were maintained pulled in the sleep room to maintain it dim whilst children slept.
- The sleep room atmosphere was maintained restful with low relaxing music whilst the children slept.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. An area of floor lino in the centre of the Junior Montessori floor was torn and jagged which posed as a potential trip hazard to the children in this care room.

Infection Control:

2. The 12 children attending the Junior Montessori room sat directly on the floor during one of the storytelling activities throughout the morning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A new piece of lino was purchased to replace the area of flooring that was torn. The person in charge stated in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action CAPA form dated 26 May 2023 that the staff will check the condition of the flooring more regularly.

Infection Control:

2. Soft mats were purchased and delivered to the Junior Montessori room since the inspection and are available for the children's use. The adults will remind the children to use the soft mats and not sit directly on the floor surface.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the piece of lino flooring that was purchased was submitted to the inspector.

Infection Control:

2. A photocopy of the receipt regarding the purchase of the new soft mats was submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliances was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 the co-ordinator had up to date training in first aid response (FAR). However, as the co-ordinator was assigned to a different service that was based close by on the same grounds, she was not available at all times to the children attending this service. It was acknowledged that a second adult had carried out training in first aid response (FAR) since the previous inspection but that she had recently permanently left the service. It was noted that one adult with up-to-date training in paediatric first aid was available on the premises.

(2)

(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available in the Creche room. It was stored on a high shelf out of children's reach.

(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) An adult with up-to-date training in first aid response (FAR) was not available at all times on this premise to attend to the children that were registered to this service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The person in charge stated in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action CAPA form dated 26 May 2023 that four staff have been enrolled in FAR training that will be carried out soon.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) The person in charge submitted an email from a reputable training company confirming that the training in FAR was booked. The person in charge will ensure in future that there is always an adult with FAR training on the premises.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the person in charge relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was adequately insured. The services' insurance certificate was available on the notice board in the main reception area. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 54, the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024 and the category of service covered which was full day care. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, fire and theft cover and public liability cover.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e) There were two toilet cubicles situated each furnished with a toilet and wall mounted nappy changing unit for use by the children attending the Creche room. There were three wash hand basins available between these two toilet cubicles. There was a toilet area provided with a toilet, a nappy changing unit and one wash hand basin situated on the first floor for use by the children attending the Junior Montessori room. There was one toilet and one wash hand basin for adult's use positioned off the main foyer on the ground floor. Appropriate storage was provided close to the nappy changing areas for all the necessary nappy changing equipment. The nappy changing mats were smooth and easy to clean and were maintained in good condition. There was a supply of liquid soap and disposable paper towels beside each wash hand basin for hygienic handwashing and hand drying. The hot water was thermostatically controlled and during the inspection the water temperature was recorded between 18.2°C and 28°C.