

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR048		
Name of Service:	Willow Montessori School		
Address of Service:	33 Shanganagh Vale, Cabinteely, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D18 K580		
Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhla O'Reilly		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	15/01/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co Wicklow.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond		
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

This private childcare service has been operated by the current registered provider since 2009. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged two and a half to five and a half years of age. The service operates daily from 9am – 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty children.

The service is located adjacent to a domestic dwelling in a residential area of south Dublin. The children have access to an enclosed garden which is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service including the registered provider. Both adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 6 and 7 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 25 First aid

Regulation 26 Fire safety measures

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 reoccurring. 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 registered provider who facilitated the inspection and the staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.

(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

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for one adult employed in the service and for the registered provider.
 - (b) An appropriate reference from another source was also available for the registered provider.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for both adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required for either adult.

Both adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were two adults working directly with sixteen children.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

- (1) A random selection of records were reviewed for ten children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
 - (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
 - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
 - (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
 - (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
 - (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
 - (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
 - (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider was aware that the records referred to above must be retained for a period of two years after the child leaves 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,*

Compliance Information

1(a)

Children were observed eating healthy snacks which were provided by parents. The pre-school room was suitably resourced and laid out to cater for the age range and number of children attending the service. Developmentally appropriate toys and materials were accessible to the children from open low-level shelving in the room. Adults interacted appropriately with children encouraging them with activities including storytelling and imaginative play.

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) There was evidence that one adult employed in the service had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training and was available to children attending the service.

(2)

(a) There were two suitably equipped first aid boxes available.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children attending the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place in the premises; the last recorded fire drill was on the 10 January 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced within the last year.

Non-compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) There was no maintenance record available for the smoke detection and alarm system.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Servicing of the smoke detection and alarm system took place on the 2 February 2024. The maintenance record for the smoke detection and alarm system and annual check will be recorded as part of operational maintenance and kept on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of maintenance record.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.