

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR068
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Name of Service:	Once Upon A time Nursery & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Harbour Square, Crofton Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A96 T6N6
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Name of Registered Provider:	AnneMarie McCormack, David McCormack
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	05/09/2024
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Date 2 of Inspection:	06/09/2024
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No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	68	PM	62
No of pre-school children: Day 2	AM	63	PM	62

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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 large private childcare facility was established in 2008 and is one of ten early years services operated by the registered providers in the Dublin region. Full day care is provided for children ranging in age from one to six years and the service operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a purposefully adapted premises at ground level in a mixed-use apartment complex in Dun Laoghaire south county Dublin. Six care rooms were available and in use on both days of inspection for the pre-school children: Wobbler 1 (12 months), Wobbler 2 (12 months), Toddler 1 (12 months), Toddler 2 (1-2 years), Pre-Montessori room (2 years) and Montessori (3 - 4 years). Two separate cot rooms were provided for younger children to sleep. An enclosed outdoor space for children to play was provided to the rear of the premises. This area was accessible by two of the care rooms.

Staffing

There were eighteen adults employed to work with pre-school children including the manager and deputy who were not assigned to a care room but were providing cover throughout the inspection. The area manager was present and rostered to work in the service on the days of inspection; another area manager and training manager also arrived after the commencement of the inspection on the first day.

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

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

Regulation 9(1)(a), (b), (2)(a) - (d) and (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1) Staffing levels

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of pre-school child

Regulation 25(1) and (2)(a), (b) First aid.

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance and safety. The inspection 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days of inspection and one of the registered providers who was present for the closing meeting.

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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (2) Eleven files were reviewed as part of the inspection this included ten files for new staff employed since the last inspection on the 21 February 2024 and one file for a student who was present on work placement. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff employed in the service. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for staff employed in the service.

- (b) References from other sources were available for staff who did not have a previous employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed to work in the service. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (d) Police vetting was available for ten staff who had resided outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that nine staff working directly with children attending the service held 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) One staff member who was employed to work with the pre-school children did not have a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) The staff member was removed from the service on the 6th of September 2024 and will not return. The recruitment manager will ensure all staff have their full relevant qualification before joining the team. The manager and area manager will oversee the staff members profile before they commence.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written records.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 sixteen adults working directly with sixty-eight children on the first day of inspection and sixteen adults available to work directly with sixty-two children on the second day of inspection.

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 entrance door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access and other exits were secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised. Cleaning products and medications were stored securely out of reach of the children. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean and a record of cleaning was maintained by staff. Children's hands were washed before eating, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Staff were observed washing their hands after cleaning children's noses. Soothers were cleaned and stored in individual boxes. Cot sheets and other linen used for children was laundered frequently and stored appropriately. Foot pedal bins were in working order and used appropriately by adults and older children.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both prescribed and non-prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required.

Safe Sleep:

The temperature of the cot room and other areas where young children were sleeping was maintained within the recommended range. All sleeping children were physically monitored and sleep checks were recorded every ten minutes.

Fire Safety:

The procedure to follow in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the service. Fire exits were unobstructed. Staff maintained a written record of fire drills completed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Trailing flexes from fans were observed in Toddler 1, 2 and the PreMontessori rooms. In the Montessori room a long cable had come out of its broken casing. These flexes and cable posed potential safety risks to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The manager will ensure to check all cables when completing their risk assessments and report it to the maintenance man immediately. The maintenance man arrived onsite on the 06/09/2024 and secured the wires with a casing attached to the wall. The wire and broken casing was removed from Montessori as it was no longer required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored, easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.