

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR086
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Name of Service:	Young World
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Address of Service:	16 Barton Court, Barton Road East, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D14 NH50
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ena Downey
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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

Young World was first established in 1997 by the current registered provider and is located in a residential area of Rathfarnham, South Co. Dublin. The service is registered to provide full day, part-time and sessional care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 17:30 hours and operates from a two storey purposely adapted residential property. The service consists of 3 preschool care rooms which children are allocated to by age range and stage of development. A large enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 9 staff members including the registered provider. On the day of 8 staff members were present including the registered provider.

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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15(1).

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 registered provider, staff 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)

Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that 2 adults commenced working in the service since regulation 9 was last inspected on the 31st May 2022. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these 2 adults as detailed below. The requirements of Regulation 9(2)(c) were assessed for all 9 adults employed to work in the service.

(a) (b) There were 2 references each available for the 2 adults which had been appropriately verified.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for each of the 9 adults working in the service. However, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults. This non-compliance is detailed under regulation 23.

(d) Two of the new employees required International Police vetting, the required documentation was available for the 2 adults.

(4) The 2 adults held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 22 children present in the service being supervised by 6 adults during 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.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspector to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that 8 of the records detailed all of the required information outlined under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i) as detailed above.

Non-Compliance Information

1. One of the records did not contain details of immunisations received by the child.
2. One of the records did not detail the date on which the child first attended the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All relevant information has been added to the children's files. Moving forward two senior staff members will ensure all required information is recorded when parents return forms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Documentation reviewed evidenced that children’s attendance was being accurately recorded in each care room.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service and was reflective of the staff members present throughout the inspection.
 - (j) Records of medication which had been administered to children in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained all of the necessary details.
 - (k) Records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained all of the necessary details.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place throughout the inspection. The children moved freely in each care room independently choosing what activities they would like to engage in both alone and with staff members. The children from each room spent time outdoors and children were dressed appropriate to the weather. Older children used the toilet independently and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff availed of opportunities throughout the inspection for warm one to one interactions with the children and demonstrated a good awareness of each child's individual needs, responding promptly to cues for care. Staff interacted warmly with the children and used gentle tones during conversations addressing children by name and speaking to them at their level.

Meals and snacks were provided by the service at regular intervals to the children throughout the inspection. Staff sat with the children during mealtimes creating a homely, relaxed atmosphere. Self-feeding was promoted in the younger care room and staff assisted children where required. Younger children wore bibs to protect their clothing during mealtimes. Drinking water was available within the rooms and was offered regularly to the children. Staff promoted personal care, encouraging children to wash hands and clean their faces at appropriate times.

Younger children were provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated sleep time. The sleep room was calm and conducive to sleep. The children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Designated rest areas were provided within the rooms where children could relax or take a break from activities.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. The care rooms were observed to be safe and free from hazards.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff and children were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

Staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and the Toddler room, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. One staff member working in the service did not have a Garda Vetting disclosure which was dated within the last 3 years.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The re-vetting application had been submitted prior to the inspection and was returned the following week. It has been attached to the employee's file. An improved reminder protocol to update vetting has been put in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.