

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR093
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Name of Service:	Hanahoe's Childcare
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Address of Service:	19 Ballinclea Heights, Killiney, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A96K6R0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Saibh Hanahoe
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	26/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Level 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips
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	N/A
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Description of service

Hanahoe's Childcare provides a full day care service to children aged between two and six years. The service operates from 08:00-14:30hrs Monday to Friday out of a purposely adapted premises located in a residential area of Killiney, South County Dublin. There are two distinct care rooms, and the children have access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the property.

Staffing

The service employs four staff including the registered provider who works directly in the service. There had been a fifth staff member employed under the access and inclusion model to support a child with additional needs until the day before the inspection.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- 9 (1) (2) (3) (4) Management and recruitment,
- 11 (1) (2) Staffing levels,
- 15 (1)(a)-(i) Records of a preschool child,

19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child,
23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
25 (1) (2) First Aid, and
26 (1)(a)(b) (2) (c) (4) Fire safety measures

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, Record of a preschool child.

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, deputy 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
 - (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- (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

- (1)
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced for the inspection. The named person in charge remained on the premises throughout the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place. The manager and staff demonstrated an awareness of their roles and lines of authority within the service.

- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of five adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a)(b) References had been sourced from past employers and reputable sources and had a record of verification as required.
 - (c) Garda Vetting had been sourced. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all other adults employed.
 - (d) Police Vetting had been sourced for adults employed in the service who had worked outside the Irish jurisdiction for six months or longer as an adult.
- (3) The procedures referred to in paragraph 2 were carried out prior to the adult's commencing employment in the service.
- (4) A record was available evidencing that the adults working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or equivalent.

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) The inspector observed that there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the preschool children.
- (2) There were four adults working directly with eighteen preschool 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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below.
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
 - (c) A section was available for recording when each child ceases attending the service.
 - (d) The name address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
 - (e) Names and contact details of other adults who are authorised to collect the child.
 - (f) Medical information, allergies, additional needs and other information specific to the child.

- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
 - (h) Immunisation details.
 - (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.
- 3(c) The records were made available for inspection

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

(1)(b) The service promoted healthy eating and provided meals and snacks at regular intervals throughout the day. The children sat at low level tables together when eating. The adults sat with them engaging them in conversation in a relaxed manner. Drinks were always available within the rooms and were regularly offered to the children. The adults demonstrated affection and warmth in their interactions with the children, responding to their cues and speaking kindly to them. They comforted the children when they became upset.

A key person approach was used to support children in forming secure attachments. Minor conflicts were managed calmly and promptly using age-appropriate techniques. Transitions from activities to care routines were well managed with staff explaining to the children what was going to happen next.

The children’s independence was promoted by giving them jobs and encouraging them to care for their own belongings.

Children’s nappies were changed at scheduled times and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Each child had a change of clothes available for use if necessary. The children in Little Pals room were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. The children slept on low beds.

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 following are examples of the measures undertaken by the manager and staff to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:

General Safety:

The entrance to the service and the outdoor area were secured adequately, to prevent unauthorised persons coming into the service, or children leaving unsupervised.

The toys and play equipment observed in use on the day of inspection were in good working order and no hazards were observed in the indoor or outdoor play environments.

Infection Control:

Staff were observed wiping down tables before and after the children ate. The staff were observed supporting the children to wash their hands as required before meals, after outdoor play, and using the toilet or wiping their noses, or nappy changing.

The inspectors observed nappy changing practices in the service, which followed the services nappy changing policy, in preventing cross contamination and the risk of infection

Administration of Medication:

The staff demonstrated knowledge of practices to keep children safe when administering medication in conversation with the inspector. Medications were stored in their original packaging as required out of reach of children.

A sample of records of medicine administered were reviewed. All were fully completed with the pertinent information required.

Safe Sleep:

In discussion with the staff and observation of practice, the staff evidenced knowledge of safe sleep practices, documenting sleep checks at ten-minute intervals. One member of staff stayed with the five children sleeping on floor beds.

Outing:

The registered provider informed the inspector that the service does not take the children on outings. They had a sports day in May and have a risk assessment for that annual event.

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) Two people with in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates were present throughout the inspection. The roster and discussion with the registered provider highlighted that there is always someone with FAR training available to the children in the service.

(2)(a) There were two first aid boxes safely stored in a conspicuous place in the service.

(b) There were fully stocked first aid boxes in the Preschool room.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(c) an authorised person.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 23 May 2025.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 4 April 2025. There was a record to show maintenance of the fire alarm and detection system had taken place on 2 May 2025. There was also a record maintained of fire protection systems servicing which takes place quarterly and was last documented on 2 May 2025.

(2)(c) The records were made available for inspection.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location in the service.