

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR097
Name of Service:	Bright Beginnings Nursery and Creche
Address of Service:	Upper Churchtown Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	D14 R2E2
Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Conroy
Service type:	Full Day
Date of Inspection:	21/08/2023
No of pre-school children:	AM 72
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley & Aisling Byrne
Title:	Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager

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	<p>28th July 2023</p> <p>Condition attached against Regulation 23 & 29</p> <p>These conditions requires that the Registered Provider must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The registered provider shall take immediate actions to ensure that care rooms used for the care of children are properly ventilated and any associated dampness permanently corrected in order
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to prevent children being exposed to mould and mildew spores. The affected areas must be immediately cleaned and treated. The recommendations of the report by Argo Ireland must be implemented in full.

- The registered provider shall take immediate actions to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children from exposure to the impact of poor hygiene by undertaking of the following.

1. Immediate removal of the nappy changing mat from the surface of the dishwasher
2. The purchase and installation of proper close top hygienic waste disposal and nappy bins.
3. A thorough deep clean of the premises, its furniture, and surfaces and ventilation units.
4. Immediate removal and disposal of stained cot mattress and replacement with wipeable ones fitted with a permanent waterproof cover.

- The registered provider must have the premises brought to an acceptable state of repair and presentation by

1. By ensuring the surface of the outside play area is always maintained to avoid becoming a slip hazard to staff and children.
2. That all trip and fall hazards posed by floor surfaces are addressed by permanent repair.
3. That damaged wall surfaces are repaired as an infection control measure.
4. That all hanging electrical cable cables, and multi-instillation electrical sockets in the premises are secured or removed and certified as safe by an electrician or electrical engineer.
5. Leak in the sanitary accommodation roof is addressed.

These conditions are in place until the 4th September 2023.

These conditions are under review on the 5th September 2023.

Description of service

Bright Beginnings Nursery & Creche is a large full day care service located in a residential area of Churchtown, South County Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years and the service is currently registered to operate from Monday to Friday between 07:45 and 18:00 hours.

Bright Beginnings operates from within a secondary school building, part of which has been purposely adapted to accommodate the early years service. Care and education are provided across 7 rooms and 4 dedicated sleep rooms are available. Three outdoor play areas are located to the front of the premises and available to the children for play. On the day of inspection, 6 care rooms were in operation as the Wobbler 1 room was closed for renovations.

Staffing

The service currently employs 17 adults, including the registered provider who is the designated person in charge and works directly in the service. On 21st August 2023, 16 adults were present and working directly with the children, 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 premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The National Registration and Enforcement Panel (NREP) wrote to the registered provider on the 28th July 2023 regarding a proposal to add a condition to the registration of the service pursuant to Section 58D (8), Part VIIA of the Child Care Act 1991. The proposed condition related to the ventilation of two internal care rooms, namely the Montessori 1 room and the Montessori 3 room.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 11 and 29 and also on the assessment of representation submitted by the registered provider on the 18th August 2023 outlining actions taken to address the proposed condition.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk to children were identified under Regulation 23. The findings are outlined under the relevant Regulations within this report.

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 21st August 2023 in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. A response and accompanying evidence were received from the registered provider on the 22nd August 2023 outlining that the risk identified pertaining to the immediate action notice had been addressed.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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 57 children present in the service being supervised by 16 adults during the 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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Two newly installed fire exit doors were observed on this inspection in rooms Toddler 1 and Wobbler 2. The accessibility of these doors posed a risk to the children as the doors were not adequately secured. The following risk to children was identified should a child have exited either room by pushing the bar on the door.

- The doors both led out onto a large unsecured outdoor space which was part of the grounds of the adjoining secondary school building.
- Outside each of the doors there was a build-up of unsafe materials accessible including piles of glass shards, rusted nails, rubbish in an unlidded bin, large planks of wood, a rodent bait box, building rubble, and cans of expandable foam.
- Both doors had a steep drop from the care room to the outdoor surface below of 0.6metres in the Wobbler 2 rooms and 0.99metres in the Toddler 1 room.
- The door in the Toddler 1 room had two exposed pipes sticking up from the flooring in front of the door which spanned the width of the door.
- The door in the Wobbler 2 room had three exposed pipes which wrapped around the frame of the door and were in reach of the children.

It is noted that corrective actions were taken in the Toddler 1 room by the registered provider to ensure the door was not accessible following a request from the inspector.

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 21st August 2023 in respect of Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- While the doors did lead to the adjoining school building's grounds, there is a fence running the full perimeter of both the childcare facility and school, ensuring that the entire area is secured.

- The outside area that the doors lead out to has since been cleaned and all unsafe materials have since been removed.
- The steep drop outside the fire exit door in Wobbler 2 has been partially addressed by levelling the surface with cement and earth. A handrail to the left of this will be erected on Monday the 4th of September 2023.
- In Toddler 1 the service have erected a bridge that provides safe access onto the field.
Please find attached photograph of bridge. The service are waiting for the plumber to remove the exposed pipes sticking up from the flooring in front of the door. The service have temporarily blocked off this door with the exposed pipes until this work has been completed.
- The exposed pipes surrounding the door in the Wobbler 2 room has been addressed. There are no longer any exposed pipes surrounding this door.

Going forward we endeavour to check this area (the field) to ensure that it is free of any unsafe materials and have it easy and safely accessible for the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Three photographs were submitted by the registered provider as follows:

- One of a wooden bridge going from the new fire exit door off the Toddler 1 room to a grass field.
- One of a cement path outside the new fire exit door off the Wobbler 2 room with a drawing on in indicating the area a handrail will be added.
- One of the new fire exit door in the Wobbler 2 room demonstrating that exposed pipes no longer surround the door frame.

Summary Comment

The actions outlined and supporting documentation submitted by the registered provider were assessed by the inspector. The actions outlined will address the non-compliances identified. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Compliance Information

(c)
On the last inspection of the service on the 26th July 2023, two of the care rooms were found to be inadequately ventilated. This inspection focused on a review of the ventilation of these two care rooms following representations submitted by the registered provider on the 18th August 2023 outlining corrective actions undertaken.

Montessori 1 Room

There were 2 mechanical ventilation units in operation in the care room on the day of inspection and it was evident that a regular exchange of air was occurring.

Montessori 3 Room

An openable window had been installed as a means of ventilation in the care room since the last inspection of the service measuring 1.36 squared metres.