

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR101			
Name of Service:	Coco's Creche & Montessori			
Address of Service:	Lanford, Sydney Terrace, Blackrock, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	A94 WR02			
Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Foy			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	08/01/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	32
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.			
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern and L. Magee			
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			

Description of service

Coco's Creche & Montessori provides full day care to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday and is located in an urban, residential area of Blackrock, south county Dublin. The premises consist of a single storey, purposely adapted building with three child-care rooms, a sleep room, sanitary facilities and two outdoor areas.

Staffing

There are eight staff members employed to work in the service including the person in charge.

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 areas of governance and health, welfare, and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare, and development of child. The scope of the inspection under this regulation included the Baby and Toddler rooms.

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 registered provider, 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*

(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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) & (b) All staff had past employer references available. A second reference from a reputable source had been sourced for a member of staff who had only one previous employer. Records were available of the verification checks that had been carried out.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff members.
 - (d) International police vetting was available for staff members who had lived abroad as adults for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) All staff members held awards in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be 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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 8 adults working with 32 children.

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

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 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 the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, 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.

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

Children moved freely throughout the inspection, exploring the environment within their rooms, and engaging in activities. The Inspectors observed children from the Toddler room spending time in the outdoor area. They were dressed in coats and hats appropriate to the weather. Staff told inspectors the children from the Baby room spend time outside daily and they have rain gear to protect their clothing in wet weather.

Snacks, meals, and drinks of water were offered at regular intervals throughout the day. The children brought their snacks from home and a hot meal was provided by the service. More food was available within the rooms at dinner time and offered to the children when they were finished or requested more. Drinks were always available within the rooms, visible and accessible to the children.

Staff supported the children to manage their personal care. Bibs were provided to protect the younger children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Staff supported the children to wash their hands and clean their faces and noses when needed. Children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Children who used the toilet were supported towards independence.

Children in the Baby room were placed to sleep according to their individual routines. Children in the Toddler room were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. Staff told the inspectors that they provide for the children to sleep outside of these times if they show signs of tiredness. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their outer clothing and providing soothers to those who used them. The cot room was calm and conducive to sleep. An area was provided with matting and cushions within the rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children through use of soft and gentle tones. They demonstrated an awareness of managing children's behaviour within the group appropriate to their age. This included using distraction techniques effectively. The staff communicated with parents in real time through an app which included information regarding diet, personal care, sleep, and activities.