

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR104
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Beechwood Childcare
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	305 Beechwood Court, Stillorgan Road, Stillorgan, Dublin 18
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	A94 FH60
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Foy, Loraine Cahill, Lynn Ruddle
-------------------------------------	---

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	23/06/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	61
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H Sutherland, O Quill
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

Beechwood Childcare is a privately owned service located in a residential area in Dublin 18 and offers full day care to children aged one to six years from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a purpose-built facility, located in an apartment complex and comprises of five care rooms. Children are allocated to the rooms according to their age and stage of development. In addition, there are two separate sleep rooms and a fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are currently nineteen staff employed to work in the service including the person in charge and an operations manager. On the day of inspection there were thirteen staff members working directly with the children. This included one staff member who was not rostered to work in the service and arrived from another service operated by the registered providers to provide additional support to the Montessori room. The person in charge was also available to provide relief cover when required.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations

9(1) (a-c),2(a-d), (3), (4) - Management and recruitment

11 (1), (2) - Staffing Levels

16 (j) (K) - Record in relation to pre-school service

19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare and development of child

23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

25 (1), (2) (a, b)-First aid

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 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) The service had a named person in charge and a deputy available to deputise as required.
 - (b) The person in charge and the deputy were present on the premises on the day of inspection.
 - (c) The inspectors observed that clear management structure was in place within the service. Conversation with staff demonstrated an awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the managers and the room leaders.

(2) A review of staff files demonstrated that seven adults commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 27 February 2024. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of the seven adults as detailed below. The requirements of Regulation 9(2)(c) relating to Garda Vetting was reviewed for all adults employed to work in the service.

- (a) (b) Fourteen written references were available for review and were appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults employed to work in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
- (d) Seven adults required international police vetting; the required documentation was available for six adults.

(4) Documentation was available to show that seven adults who work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Police vetting was not available in relation to one staff member who previously lived outside of the State for a period of more than 6 months as an adult. This requirement was non-compliant on previous inspections dated 30 June 2017, 21 January 2020, 30 May 2022, and 27 February 2024. The actions submitted by the registered providers following each inspection had not been effective in preventing the non-compliance from reoccurring.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2)(d) had not been carried out prior to one adult commencing employment in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) (3)
Evidence of police vetting was submitted for the staff member. A full internal audit of all current staff records was completed to ensure police vetting is in place for all relevant staff. A compliance tracking system has been implemented to log each staff member's vetting status, highlighting deadlines for any international vetting requirements. The recruitment policy has been updated to strictly prohibit commencement of employment prior to receipt of all required vetting documentation. Staff members responsible for the recruitment process have undergone training with regards to the requirements of regulation 9 (2) (d)(3). A mandatory pre-employment

checklist has been introduced, which must be fully signed off by management before a new hire can start. This includes a section for verifying international vetting if relevant. Quarterly compliance checks have been scheduled to ensure continued adherence to all vetting requirements and prevent future oversights.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of police vetting submitted

Staff file check list submitted

Recruitment policy

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 2 (d), (3) has been adequately addressed and will be subject to review on the next 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 staff were working directly with the children on the day of inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection. There were thirteen adults working directly with sixty children in the morning and thirteen adults working directly with sixty-one children in the afternoon. The person in charge was also available to provide relief cover when required.

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:

- (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)
- (j) Medication consent records were reviewed and found to be completed appropriately with signatures from both staff and parents.

Non-Compliance Information

- (k) The service uses a triplicate accident and incident book to record incidents involving the children, the inspectors reviewed thirty-four records and found that five forms were not signed by the parents, four of which still contained the parents copy. Failure to provide parents with information regarding incidents involving their child could potentially impact follow up care at home.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (k) Parents were informed of the incidents and signatures were obtained retrospectively. A full review of accident and incident logs has taken place and a protocol is now in place requiring same day sign off at collection. Room leaders will verify that all forms are signed and distributed daily. Staff received refresher training, and the triplicate form is now under review to ensure clarity and to support consistent completion and parent acknowledgment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation in relation to the new protocols in place submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 16 (k) has been adequately addressed and will be subject to review on the next 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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection. Mealtimes were calm and well managed and children were observed to enjoy their meal at their own pace. Staff reported that snacks were provided by the parents and the service provides breakfast and a hot meal. Drinking water was available to the children and staff provided children with drinks during meals. Self-feeding was actively encouraged for younger children and additional portions were available for children requesting more. Staff supported children to be independent with support provided as needed. For example, washing their hands before mealtimes, tidying away their plates and cups and tidying up following play. Children's nappies were changed routinely and as required, the nappy changing process was observed to be respectful and reassuring with staff engaging positively with children throughout.

Transitions from one activity to the next were managed smoothly and children appeared familiar with the daily routine. Staff interacted warmly with children and modelled positive dispositions such as patience and kindness. Play was child led and children were observed to take charge of their own play experiences during indoor and outdoor play. Young children were provided with the opportunity to sleep after lunch and staff reported that children could sleep throughout the day if they showed signs of tiredness. Lighting was dimmed and soft music played in the background in rooms where children slept creating a relaxed atmosphere that was conducive to sleep. Staff were observed to comfort and reassure children during sleep time. Cosy areas were available in the care rooms for older children to rest if required. Staff reported that they use a digital platform to provide parents with

regular updates of key aspects of their child's day, including sleep, activities, nappy changing and food intake, supporting continuity of care between the service and the home.

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 into the service was adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Toys and play equipment used by the children were observed to be safe for the age group, maintained and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Staff were aware of children's food allergies and adequately described how allergies are managed in the service.
- Child proof locks were in place on low level storage.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities with warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available within the care rooms, toilets and nappy changing facilities.
- Children were supported to wash their hands after nappy changing, before meals and after outdoor play. Staff were also observed to follow effective hand washing practices.
- The care rooms were observed to be clean and documented daily and weekly cleaning schedules were available for review.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff adequately detailed the services procedure for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and documentation was available for review.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed to carry out physical checks on sleeping children every ten minutes and a sleep log was available detailing the room temperature, breathing pattern, colour and position of the child.

- Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children’s developmental needs.
- Discussion with staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were observed to be clearly marked and unobstructed for the duration of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A cable from an air conditioning unit in the sleep room shared by Senior and Junior Pre Wobbler children was found to be sitting in water that had leaked from the unit presenting an electrical hazard. Although the morning risk assessment was documented as completed and indicated the floor was clean and dry, staff confirmed it had not been checked that morning and was last inspected on Friday evening. The issue was brought to the attention of the person in charge and appropriate action was taken to mitigate the risk. There were no children sleeping in the cot room during this time.
2. A trailing cable from an air conditioning unit stored on a shelf was observed to be hanging down above a soft play area in the Senior Pre Wobbler room posing a potential risk to the safety of the children. The issue was brought to the attention of the person in charge and appropriate action was taken to mitigate the risk. The service was found to be non-compliant for trailing cables on the previous inspection dated 27 February 2024. The preventive actions submitted following this inspection has not prevented the non-compliance from recurring.

Infection Control:

3. A large vinyl fabric mat in the Senior Pre Wobbler room was found to have a tear on the surface exposing the internal foam. The exposed area posed an infection control risk, as the surface cannot be effectively cleaned or sanitised.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The leaking air conditioning unit was replaced with a new unit.
 2. The trailing cable above the soft play area was secured and repositioned to eliminate risk.
- All air conditioning units and their associated wiring were assessed and made safe by a maintenance contractor. Risk assessments for all rooms were immediately reviewed and updated

where needed to reflect additional hazards associated with electrical units and cables. Room leaders must now sign off a physical walk-through checklist at the start of each day.

Infection Control:

3. The torn vinyl mat was removed from the room and a deep clean of the area was carried out. A new vinyl mat is now in place. Staff in the Senior Pre Wobbler room were reminded of the importance of daily checks on all soft furnishings and play equipment. A daily inspection log is now in place in each care room and monthly audits of soft furnishings will now take place.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of wires safety secured.
Documentation regarding staff responsibilities and risk assessments.
Copy of maintenance log.

Infection Control:

Weekly room checks record.
Photographic of new vinyl furnishings.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed and will be subject to review on the next inspection.

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) There was evidence to show that three adults hold certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training two of which were available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and stored safely in easily accessible and prominent positions in the care rooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were observed to be available to the children attending the service.