

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR154
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Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Central Park
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Address of Service:	Vantage Block F, Central Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 C432
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Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
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Service type:	Full Day Care
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Date of Inspection Day 1:	25/03/2024
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Date of Inspection Day 2:	26/03/2024
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No of pre-school children 25/03/2024	AM	54	PM	55
No of pre-school children 26/03/2024	AM	56	PM	56

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
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Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond and Sarah Quigley
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

This private childcare facility was established in 2012 and is one of twenty-three early years services operated by the registered provider. Full day care is provided for children ranging in age from one to six years from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum number of eighty-four children. The service is located in a purposefully adapted premises over two levels in a commercial business park in an urban area of south county Dublin. An enclosed outdoor space is provided and is accessed from the first floor. Six care rooms were available in the main building, five of these rooms were in use on both days of inspection. Two separate cot rooms were provided but only one of these was in use during this inspection. The Baringo and Serengeti rooms catered for the youngest children attending who ranged in age between one year and two years and two months and children in the Botswana and Safari rooms were aged between two and three years. Children in the Pre-school Kenya room were generally all three years of age and children attending the Pre-school Madagascar room (which was in a standalone structure with sanitary accommodation in the outdoor area) were all aged over three years.

Staffing

There were seventeen adults employed to work with pre-school children including the manager and deputy manager. The manager was not present for this inspection and the deputy manager was providing cover in care rooms throughout the inspection. An area director arrived after the inspection had commenced to provide support. Fifteen adults employed to work directly with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent. Two adults who did not have the required qualification had Letters of Eligibility to Practice which had been issued by the DCEDIY.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may focus on other areas as required.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 25 First aid

The following regulation was not part of the inspection plan so therefore only the non-compliance was reported:

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of 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 reoccurring. 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 co-operation of the deputy manager, the area director and staff members who facilitated the inspection 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.*

(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

The files for nineteen adults who were employed by the registered provider, including a cook and a cleaner were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service.
 - (b) References from other sources were available for adults who did not have a previous employer.

- (c) Garda vetting dated within the last three years was available for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for seventeen adults for whom it was required.

(4) Fifteen adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were fourteen adults working directly with fifty-five children on the first day of inspection and fourteen adults available to work directly with fifty-six children on the second day of inspection; this included the deputy manager.

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)

Food was offered to children at regular intervals throughout the day and food choices were appropriate for children's dietary needs. Water was offered with meals and mealtimes were relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults engaged with them helping when required.

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required and adults were observed to engage with children during the procedure. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

Care was given to children's appearance as bibs were put on younger children before eating and their hands and faces were cleaned afterwards.

During this inspection, the prescribed sleep routines met the children's needs and children had heavy clothing and shoes removed before being put down to sleep and rest.

Appropriate interactions between adults and children were observed during the inspection.

Adults used effective information sharing processes, such as a software application system and verbal handovers, which promoted consistency and continuity of care for children attending the service.

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) Four adults working in the service had valid qualifications in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and were available to children. Other adults working in the service also had relevant training in first aid for children.

(2) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available.

(a) They were stored safely in conspicuous positions in the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

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

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing procedures observed throughout the service were not effective for infection prevention and control. Gloves used for nappy changing were not removed before redressing children, children's hands were not routinely washed after nappy changing and the changing mats were not cleaned between changes. Adults did not wash their own hands between nappy changes.
2. Foot pedal operated bins were not used appropriately. Adults and children were observed to use their hands to open bins to dispose of waste posing a risk of cross contamination.
3. The hands of young children attending the Serengeti and Botswana rooms were not washed before eating posing a risk of infection.
4. A child in the Serengeti room was observed to repeatedly mouth beakers of water belonging to two other children. Adults working in the room who observed this did not remove the beakers despite one of the children having an obvious infection which posed a risk of cross infection to other children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

All staff were retrained on the following:

1. Nappy changing procedure
2. The correct use of pedal bins
3. Handwashing policy
4. Children's personal hygiene and the prevention of cross infection.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentation containing the signatures of adults who had completed training were submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated should address the non-compliances and practices will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

The regulatory requirement is deemed to have been met.