

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR162
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Once Upon A Time Nursery & Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------------------------

Address of Service:	Carrickmines Manor, Glenamuck Road, Carrickmines, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D18 V802
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Annemarie McCormack and David McCormack
-------------------------------------	---

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date 1 of Inspection:	01/05/2024
------------------------------	------------

Date 2 of Inspection:	02/05/2024
------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	74	PM	72
No of pre-school children: Day 2	AM	73	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin
---	--

Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Mona Condon
----------------------------------	------------------------------

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

This private childcare facility is one of nine services operated by the registered providers in the Dublin region. The service is registered to provide a full day care for pre-school children and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 -18:30.

The early years service is located at ground floor level and operates from a purpose-built premises within an apartment complex in a residential area in Carrickmines South Dublin. There are six care rooms available for the pre-school children; Junior Wobbler (1 year), Wobbler (1year), Toddler (2 years), Pre-Montessori (2- 3 years), Junior Montessori (3 - 4 years), and Montessori room (4 - 6 years). An outdoor play area for children is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

Fifteen adults are employed to work in the service including the manager and deputy manager and an adult is also employed for ancillary duties. On the 1st of May 2024 there were twelve adults employed to work directly with pre-school children. The manager and deputy manager were not assigned to care rooms but were available to provide assistance when required. The director and the training development manager arrived during the inspection and provided additional support in the care rooms.

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 plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

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

Regulation 11(1), (2) and (8)(a) Staffing levels

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 27 Supervision. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(b) health, welfare and development of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Junior Wobbler, Senior Wobbler, Toddler and Pre-Montessori 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 providers, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.

(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 designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.

- (2) The inspection focused on the recruitment records for all staff employed in the service and included staff who were absent on the day of inspection. Seventeen files in total were inspected.
- (a) Thirty-one written validated references were available from previous employers for staff employed in the service.
 - (b) Three written validated references from other sources were available for staff who did not have a previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for seventeen staff employed to work in the service. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for sixteen staff who had resided outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (3) The required recruitment procedures were carried out prior to staff being appointed and allowed access with children attending the pre-school service.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that eleven staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Six staff members held letters of eligibility to practice or qualification recognition letters from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the first day of inspection there were twelve adults working directly with seventy-four children. On the second day of inspection there were twelve adults working directly with seventy-three children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained as detailed below.

1. Junior Wobbler room: Two adults cared for ten children all aged 1 year. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 1–2-year age range is 1:5.

2. Senior Wobbler room: Two adults cared for nine children aged 1-2 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 1–2-year age range is 1:5.

3. Toddler Room: One adult cared for six children all aged 2 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 2–3-year age range is 1:6.

4. Pre-Montessori room: Three adults cared for eighteen children aged 2-3 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 2–3-year age range is 1:6.

5. Junior Montessori room: Two adults cared for sixteen children aged 3 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 3–4-year age range is 1:8.

6. Montessori room: Two adults cared for fifteen children aged 3-4 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 3–4-year age range is 1:8.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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 manager reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children were offered a morning snack of fresh fruit and yogurt. A hot meal of chicken goujons, mixed vegetables and roast potatoes was served as the main meal. Drinking water was available to children throughout the day and all children were given water with their meal. Younger children were provided with bibs at mealtime. Children in the Junior and Senior Wobbler rooms were encouraged to feed themselves and staff were observed supporting children who needed assistance with their meal. Alternative snack options were available, one child in the Senior Wobbler room was observed not to like the snack offered and staff gave the child a different snack that the child liked and ate. Additional portions of food were available and staff were observed offering more food to those who requested it.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. The staff provided the children with comfort when they became upset holding them and talking to them in soft tones. Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required. Younger children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed to engage warmly with children when providing this care. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play. All children had the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor play area.

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 to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- Blind cords were secured.
- The kitchen was inaccessible.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and a record of cleaning was maintained.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and nappy changing, after outdoor play and before meals.
- Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.

Administration of Medication:

- Care plans were available for children with specific medical conditions. Staff were familiar with the care plans when questioned. Medication was clearly labelled, stored out of reach of the children and readily accessible if required.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- The room temperature was maintained at the required temperature for sleep and staff maintained a record of the temperature.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed and clearly marked.
- A monthly record of fire drills was maintained.