

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR180
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Name of Service:	Ready Steady Play
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Address of Service:	The Crèche, 2nd Level Dundrum Town Centre, Dundrum, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D16 F447
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Name of Registered Provider:	Carol Coffey
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Service type:	Drop-In
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Date(s) of Inspection:	14/02/2024
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Date 2 of Inspection:	05/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	0	PM	N/A
Day 2	AM	1	PM	7

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	Day 1 L. Magee & M. Redmond Day 2 L. Magee
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This private childcare service was established in 2005 by the current registered provider. A drop-in service is provided for children whose parents are on the premises. The service is provided Monday to Saturday; between 10am – 5pm and from 11am-6pm on Sundays.

Staffing

On 14 February 2024, six staff members were employed in the service including the registered provider. Two further childcare workers have recently been recruited to the service. On 14 February and 5 April 2024, two childcare workers were working directly with the children.

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. The inspection may also 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 13 Pre-school services in drop-in centres

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health Welfare and development of the child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

On the day of inspection, non-compliances were found under 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 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

15 February 2024

1. An Immediate Action Notice was sent to the registered provider under Regulation 25 First Aid. The service had no adults on the premises with in date first aid training.

On 15 February 2024, a response was received by the registered provider which did not address this concern. A second response was received on 8 March 2024 which addressed this concern.

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

(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

(2) The files of 8 staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation These 8 files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below;

- (a) Seven validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Nine validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) All adults working directly with children had a vetting disclosure dated within the previous 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for all adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that 7 adults working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) There was no evidence that 1 adult who was working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(4)
Only staff who have a full childcare qualification will be allowed work in the service going forward. Staff have been informed if they are out sick they must inform management in a timely manner, so the service is fully covered.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documents were reviewed.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance has been addressed. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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.*
- (6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the drop-in service.
- (6)
The minimum ratio of adults to children to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 was satisfied during the inspection.
- (8)
(a) On both days of inspection, two adults were present and working directly with the children.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres

- (1) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service or a preschool service in a drop-in centre shall ensure there are no more than 24 children attending the service at any given time.*
- (3) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
The person in charge confirmed that the maximum number of children that are accommodated at any one time is twenty children.
- (3)
No child attended the service for longer than two hours consecutively; there was a policy displayed which clearly stated this and records reviewed confirmed this.

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

Compliance Information

(h) Details of attendance for each pre-school child was recorded accurately.

(j) There were no medication records. The service policy states no medication is administered in the service unless it is lifesaving emergency medication. If the children are unwell and require medication, the parents are contacted to come and collect their child.

Non-Compliance Information

(i) There was no staff roster available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff roster is now posted up on the wall, this was an oversight at the time. The service will ensure that a monthly staff roster is in place always.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken has addressed this non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

Food is not provided in the service. Drinking water was available and offered to the children. One child required a nappy change while a second child required a change of clothing. Parents were contacted by the person in charge and asked to come and attend to their child. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. An outdoor area is available to the children but was not used 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:

The nappy changing unit was not in use as the service had concerns over its safety.

Infection Control:

The hot water in two of the children's bathrooms was cold and ineffective for good handwashing.

This was a non-compliance on the last inspection 4 November 2021 despite assurances from the registered provider during the corrective action and preventative action process.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The Nappy changing unit was/is working fine, there was concern by a staff member that it was making a slight “rattling sound” so it was “out of use” on a temporary basis. This was assessed on 24/4/24 and it was found to be working fine, it did not need to be repaired. The service will regularly check the nappy changing unit for any defects.

Infection Control:

Maintenance have upped the temperature of the water. The service has reviewed their hand washing policy to ensure staff inform both Maintenance and Management of Ready Steady Play urgently, if the water drops below 30 degrees.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service have addressed the non-compliances identified. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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)

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider as on 14 February 2024, the service had no adults on the premises within date first aid training.

On 15 February 2024, a response was received by the registered provider which did not address this concern. A second response was received on 8 March 2024 which addressed this concern.

On 5 April 2024, a person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the service.

- (2)
- (a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.
- (b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill was on 4 April 2024.
- (b) There was an annual record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) There was no record to show that the smoke alarms had been serviced.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The Fire Alarm system was serviced in two parts. This is completed bi-annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(2) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 7 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

The person in charge of the service confirmed that she is the designated person in charge and that the person registered as the designated person in charge is the manager of another service. This change in circumstance had not been notified to the Inspectorate.

This was a non-compliance on the last inspection dated 4 November 2021 despite assurances from the registered provider during the corrective action and preventative action process.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service submitted a change in circumstances form for the person in charge. The service will ensure that the person on site, is the person in charge going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.