

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS052
Name of Service:	Fonthill Lodge Childcare
Address of Service:	Old Lucan Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	D20 PX73
Name of Registered Provider:	Joanne Lynch
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date of inspection:	02/05/2023
Second day of inspection:	03/05/2023

No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	79	PM	75
No of pre-school children Day 2:	AM	84	PM	80

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Mary Redmond / Emer Mulhern
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
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Description of service

This private childcare facility was established in 1999 and is one of two centres operated by the registered provider. Full day care, part-time care and sessional care and education is provided for children aged one to five and a half years of age; a school-aged childcare service also operates from the premises. The hours of operation are between 7.30am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a purposefully adapted premises in an urban area of southwest Dublin. Care is delivered across nine rooms and one of these rooms is used exclusively for the care of school-aged children. A cot room is available within the care room where the youngest children attending the service are accommodated. The Nest and Caterpillar rooms cater for the youngest children attending who are aged from twelve to twenty-four months. The Bee, Butterflies and Owls rooms generally cater for children aged two to three years and the remaining rooms accommodate the older children attending. A large enclosed outdoor space which had an artificial grass covering was divided into separate areas to cater for the various age groups. A good variety of play materials and equipment was provided in the outdoor area.

Staffing

There were twenty-three adults employed to work with pre-school children including the manager and deputy manager who were not assigned to care rooms but were available to provide assistance when needed; the registered provider was also available to work in the service if required. Adults employed to work with 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.

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 and health, welfare and development of child. 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 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development 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 designated person in charge, the registered provider 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

(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.

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was the person in charge on the day of inspection and was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place.

The designated person in charge confirmed that ten adults had been recruited since the last inspection on the 29 January 2021.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for ten adults.
 - (b) References from other sources were also available for adults, as appropriate, for example for adults who had only one previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting was available for ten adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for four adults for whom it was required.
- (4) Ten adults had attained major awards 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 and 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 sixteen adults working directly with seventy-nine children in the morning and fifteen adults caring for seventy-five children in the afternoon on the first day of inspection with seventeen adults available to work directly with eighty-four children on the second day of inspection. The manager and registered provider were also available.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The records of sixteen children were randomly selected and reviewed. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) The date when children ceased attending the service was recorded on registration forms and also electronically on a mobile tablet application system.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

(4) The service manager and the registered provider were aware that the records referred to above must be retained for a period of two years after the child leaves the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner was not recorded.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Registration forms have been amended to include a space for the name, address and telephone number of each child's GP. Parents of children currently attending have been contacted to request this information.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the amended registration form was submitted.

Summary Comment

The documentation has been reviewed and the inspector is satisfied that the non-compliance has been addressed.

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Details of children’s attendance was accurately recorded in electronic format.
 - (i) A staff roster was available which also demonstrated how staff breaks were covered.
 - (j) Records were available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child, that administration of medication was witnessed, and parents were informed following administration of medication.
 - (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there was evidence available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

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 registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place.

Nutritious and varied food was offered to children at regular intervals throughout the day and extra portions were readily available. Food choices were appropriate to children’s individual dietary and cultural needs. Mealtimes were relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults engaged with them helping when required.

Young children were encouraged to feed themselves appropriate to their age and stage of development and were helped when needed. Babies were cradled in a semi-upright position while being bottle-fed and adults maintained good eye contact with babies while feeding; an adult chair was available to facilitate this practice, if required.

Practices in the service reflected families' preferences, for example, regarding the timing of the main hot meal of the day which was served in the afternoon following requests from parents.

Drinking water was readily available to children throughout the day indoors and outdoors.

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

Detailed plans were in place to guide practice for children with additional care requirements, including allergies. Children's hands were washed after outdoor play and before eating. Care was given to children's appearance as bibs were put on younger children before eating and their hands and faces were cleaned afterwards.

Sleep routines were reflective of children's needs which promoted good habits around sleep. Children attending the Butterflies and Bee rooms slept on mats in their care rooms while children attending the Owls and Green rooms had the option of resting or being facilitated with an activity in the garden or another care room. Safe sleep practices were adhered to, and children had heavy clothing and shoes removed before being put down to sleep and rest.

All children had regular access to outdoor play and wore appropriate clothing when outside.

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

Adults used effective information sharing processes, such as care plans and a mobile tablet application, which promoted consistency and continuity of care for children attending the service.