

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015DS063 |
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| Name of Service: | Buttercup Creche |
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| Address of Service: | 54 Marian Rd, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14 |
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| Eircode: | D14 AV20 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Anna Giblin |
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| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time |
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| Date of Inspection: | 10/07/2025 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 32 | PM | 32 |
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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K |
| Inspection undertaken by: | L Jameson |
| Title: | Early Years Inspector |

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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

Buttercup Crèche and Montessori is situated in a residential area in South Dublin, offering full day and part time care to a maximum of 45 children aged 1 – 6 years, from 08:00am to 05:30pm, Monday to Friday. The service operates from a converted retail unit with four care rooms located over two floors. The Baby and Toddler rooms are located on the ground floor and the ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 room are located on the first floor. The service also has a designated cot room, an office, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation and an enclosed outdoor play area.

Staffing

The registered provider employs ten staff members including the person in charge, two deputy persons in charge, one of whom works in another service operated by the registered provider, and seven early years practitioners to work directly with the children. The registered provider works in the service in a supernumerary capacity, providing support in the care rooms as needed. On the day of the inspection, the person in charge, the deputy person in charge and six early years practitioners were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. The deputy person in charge from another branch arrived shortly after to provide support in the care rooms. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection.

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 premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 9(1)(2)(3)(4) Recruitment and Management, Regulation 15(1)(3) Record of a Pre-School Child, Regulation 19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child, Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby Room, the Toddler room and ECCE room 1. The inspection did not include ECCE room 2. Regulation 11 Staffing Levels was inspected in all care 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 inspector wishes 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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
 - (b) The person in charge was rostered to be present all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

- (2) The full staff files of five adults employed to work in the service since the last inspection were reviewed along with the full staff file of the deputy person in charge who works in another service operated by the registered provider and Garda vetting for five adults which had expired since the last inspection.
- (a) Eight written and verified references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Four written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for eleven adults who 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) Documentary evidence showed that five adults had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as an adult. International police vetting was available for five adults.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to six adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the six adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. In the morning there were seven adults caring for thirty-two children and during the afternoon the same number of adults were caring for thirty-two children. In addition, the person in charge and one deputy person in charge were available to provide support in a supernumerary capacity where required.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff members were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children in the rooms.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) A sampling process was used in relation to the children's records. All of ten sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3)

(c) The children's records were available and open for review by the inspector as an authorised person

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 following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- Staff members engaged in positive interactions with each other and the children on the day of the inspection. The children appeared to be happy and confident in their environment, evidenced by a sense of familiarity and good relationships between staff members and the children attending the service.
- Staff members were attentive to children's individual needs, for example, one child was settling into the service on the day of the inspection. Staff members were observed to interact warmly and kindly, using gentle and reassuring tones of voice, to support the child. Staff members discussed the settling in period with the inspector, demonstrating familiarity with the process.
- The children were supported to follow their own interests, explore their environment and given freedom of choice, while being offered support during activities and transitions. A selection of activities were available to the children, promoting decision making skills and independence.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a sociable and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children. Water was readily available to the children in the care rooms and the outdoor play area.
- Staff members were attentive to the sleep needs of the children. During sleep time, the blinds were closed and soft music played in the background, creating a relaxing environment for sleeping children.
- The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently with discreet supervision provided by staff. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed;

- Low level tables and chairs were available for use by the children which allowed them to engage in tabletop activities and meals comfortably.
- The care rooms were designed to support the age and developmental stages of the children attending the service, equipment and materials were stored at a low level to encourage the children’s independence decision making skills.
- Toys and materials were grouped into defined interest areas with adequate props and supporting equipment to support engaging spontaneous play experiences, such as home corners and cosy area.
- Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, a selection of books, cars, animals, dolls, sensory activities and kitchens with supporting props were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play.
- The outdoor play area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor and imaginative play.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Supporting equipment and props were not available for the kitchen in the outdoor play area, which impeded the play opportunity for a child who was observed to show an interest in this area on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Additional resources, such as pots, bowls and utensils have been added to the outdoor kitchen to create a more defined area, giving the children the opportunity to extend their interests. This area will be checked and maintained through the outdoor risk assessment.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 21.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- A visitor book was available at the front door. The inspector was asked to sign in and sign out at their arrival to and departure from the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were stored safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The care rooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas to ensure the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- Windows were observed to be open to allow circulation of fresh air and reduce malodour in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

- Emergency and anti-febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over one years old in the cot rooms and care rooms.
- Cots and sleep mats were observed to be in good condition and positioned 50cm apart, allowing staff members to move easily around the room while carrying out sleep checks.
- Appropriate bed linen was in use for sleeping children.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.
- Emergency evacuation routes were displayed throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The following was observed on the day of inspection which reduced effective cleaning and increased the risk of cross contamination:

- Couches that formed part of the cosy areas in the Wobbler room, Toddler room and ECCE 1 room were observed to be torn and ripped in places.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Four new couches have been purchased to replace the old ones. The new couches will be checked and maintained through monthly checks as per the service's risk assessments.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured to reflect the type of care provided. The insurance certificate had an expiry date of 27 March 2026.