

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS080				
Name of Service:	StartBright Deansrath				
Address of Service:	St. Cuthberts Road, Deansrath, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D22 C5H9				
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine McQuillan				
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	05/06/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>29</td> <td>PM</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	AM	29	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8				
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and S Quigley				
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

Startbright Deansrath is one of seven not-for-profit childcare services operated by the registered provider located in an urban setting in South West Dublin. A part time and sessional service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. The premises is located in a purpose-built facility in Deansrath, Clondalkin, Sout West Dublin. An outdoor area was available to the side and rear of the building.

Staffing

There are eleven staff employed by the service including the service manager, a family support worker and a cleaner. On the day of inspection there were nine staff present. The service manager was also present and available to assist when needed. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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, safety and notification and complaints. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 24, 27 and 31. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

This inspection has been triggered by receipt of information to the Early Years Inspectorate on the 31st May 2024.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, person in charge and staff 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

(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 person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person charge or named deputy to be present at all times of opening.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that five adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 7th March 2023. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) There were ten validated references from a past employer available for the five adults.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for six additional adults who worked in the service.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of six months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were completed prior to the five staff members commencing in the service.
- (4) Each of the three staff members who required a qualification held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The inspection focussed on the Risk Management Policy, Supervision of Children Policy and Policy on Managing Behaviour Policy. The service had detailed written policies in place in the service.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twenty nine children attending the service being supervised by seven adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

The roster demonstrated that there were two people on the premises at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1)

The attendance records of the preschool children were reviewed and demonstrated that each child had been checked in and out of the service by a staff member.

(3) (a)

There was a visitor book available and the inspectors were required to sign in on arrival. The manager confirmed that only the persons detailed in Regulation (3)(a) were granted permission to enter the premises with their approval.

(b)

A record in writing was kept of the children, staff and visitor attendance.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection all children were supervised appropriately and at all times. There were twenty nine children attending the service being supervised by seven adults.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(e) an incident in respect of which a pre-school child attending the service goes missing while attending the service.

Compliance Information

(e)

The registered provider ensured the Agency was notified within three working days of an incident concerning a missing child.

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 two entrance gates to the outdoor play area do not prevent unauthorised people from gaining access to the service. There is a low level gate with an inadequate lock securing it which would allow access to the rear outdoor area and the side entrance gate is also accessible. The main gate to the car park of the service is left unlocked and open whilst the service is operating allowing unauthorised people to access the service.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Additional locks have been placed on doors. Height of gates has been increased to ensure further security. Both these measures ensure unauthorised people can no longer gain access to the premises without authorised consent. No longer used as entry or exits.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photos of the new gates installed.

Summary Comment

The preventive and corrective actions submitted by the registered provider together with the supporting documents have been reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.