

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS094
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Deansrath Family Centre
-------------------------	-------------------------

Address of Service:	Deansrath Health Centre, St. Cuthbert's Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D22 R5Y0
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Feehan
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	04/02/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	15
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Sutherland
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Deansrath Family Centre is a not-for-profit early years service located in Clondalkin Dublin 22. The premises consist of three care rooms and an outdoor area situated within Deansrath Health Centre. Care and education are provided to children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years. The service offers a morning session from 8.40am to 12.10pm and an afternoon session from 12.30pm to 4pm Monday to Thursday.

Staffing

There are currently six adults employed to work in the service including the person in charge and a cook. On the day of inspection there was six adults present including the person in charge, four adults working directly with the children, and a cook. Additionally, there was one adult present on an educational work placement program and three transition year students. 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, health, welfare and development of child, and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

(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

(2) Following discussion with the person in charge and review of documentation it was confirmed that three adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 4 May 2023. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3), and (4) was reviewed in respect of the adults. All relevant documentation required for the three transition year students and the adult on the educational work placement program were also open to inspection. The requirements of Regulation 9 (2) (c) relating to Garda vetting were reviewed for all adults working in the service.

- (a) Six written and validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Eight written and validated references were available from sources other than past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting was 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.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the two adults employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications. One adult did not require a qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Information was unavailable to establish whether international police vetting was required for one adult who was observed working directly with the children in the service.
- (3) The procedures required under Regulation 9(2)(d) were not completed before one adult was granted access to children attending the pre-school service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider obtained documentation confirming that the adult did not require international police vetting. The service's recruitment policy has since been updated to ensure that all adults working in the service provide documentation to determine whether international police vetting is required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 (2)(d) and (3) have been adequately addressed.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection.
- (3) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained for the duration of the inspection. Four adults were working directly with 15 children, and the person in charge was available to provide support when required.

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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were in place in the preschool service, as follows:

On arrival to the service, the inspector observed a calm, nurturing environment. Adult child interactions were warm and respectful, and staff were aware of children’s physical and emotional needs and responded promptly and appropriately when required. The daily routine was flexible and well organised, which was evident in children’s ease of transition from one activity to the next. Songs and verbal cues were used to signal a change in

activity, providing children with the opportunity to prepare for the change. Play was child-led, and children were provided with the time and space to choose from a variety of play activities. Staff were observed moving between the play areas and actively engaging in children's play. For example, staff were observed engaging in role play in the home corner, supporting and extending the learning of children as they acted out real life experiences. Children were provided with opportunities for a balance of active play, rest and social interaction. Breakfast and lunch were provided by the service, served at regular intervals and drinks of water were provided with meals. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed and a positive experience for the children. Staff sat with children at mealtimes, were respectful of their choices and engaged in playful conversation encouraging the development of the children's social skills. Children were encouraged to be independent and develop self-care skills, such as self-feeding, tidying up after meals and play, handwashing, and putting on their coats. A designated rest area was available for children who required a rest or a break from activities. All of the children had the opportunity to engage in outdoor play and were appropriately dressed for the weather. The outdoor space allowed children to move freely, explore, and engage in appropriate risk taking, supporting the development of their gross motor skills as well as their confidence and independence. Staff reported that parents/guardians were provided with daily opportunities to exchange information about the daily experiences and development of their child. The inspector observed open and respectful interactions between staff and parents/guardians during handovers.

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:

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from pinch or crush points.
- Daily inspections of indoor and outdoor play environments were carried out, as evidenced by documented risk assessments.
- Shock-absorbing surfaces were installed in the outdoor area.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were in use in the bathrooms and care rooms to support the safe disposal of waste.
- Liquid soap, warm water, and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing. Children were supported to wash their hands before and after meals and after using the toilet.
- Documented cleaning schedules were in place and maintained in the care rooms.

Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge reported that the service does not administer medication to children.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.
- Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the evacuation procedure and reported that fire drills are carried out regularly in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The keypad lock on a door leading from the service to the health centre was not functioning. The inspector acknowledges that interim control measures such as, increased staff vigilance and enhanced supervision were implemented while awaiting repair. However, unsecured entry points present a potential risk of unauthorised access which can compromise children's safety.

Infection Control:

2. The laminate surface on two tables used by the children had come away. This poses a risk of the spread of infection, as the surfaces cannot be effectively cleaned.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The keypad has been repaired and the daily risk assessment completed by the early years coordinator now includes checking the door to the health centre to ensure it is functioning correctly.

Infection Control:

2. The laminate surfaces on the tables have been replaced; the tables will be checked as part of the daily risk assessment of the preschool environment.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photograph of the repaired keypad

Copy of the daily risk assessment

Infection Control:

Copy of the daily risk assessment for the preschool environment

Photographs of the repaired tables

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.