

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS094
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Name of Service:	Deansrath Family Centre
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Address of Service:	Deansrath Health Centre, St. Cuthbert's Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D22 R5YO
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Feehan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	04/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 2 nd Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern
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
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Description of service

This service is one of two not-for-profit services operated by Deansrath Family Centre. The premises consist of three rooms and an outdoor area situated in Deansrath Health Centre. The service provides sessional, education and care to children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is open Monday to Thursday from 8:40am to 12:10pm and 12:30pm to 4pm.

Staffing

There are four staff employed to work in the service including the person in charge.

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 areas of governance and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 23 and 25; These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations 9, 15 and 16.

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

At the time of inspection there was a condition attached to the registration of the service regarding their re-registration application:

Registration Renewal Condition attached under Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

The condition has been removed as of the 31st May 2023, as all required documents have been received and meet the requisite requirements.

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

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of two staff members who the person in charge stated had commenced working in the service since the previous inspection.

(2)

(a) Both staff members had two references available from past employers, one of which was the most recent. Records of verification were available and signed by the person in charge.

(b) Not applicable as both staff members had previous employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both staff members.

(d) Not applicable as the staff members had not lived outside the state as an adult.

(3) Dates documented on the recruitment records evidenced that the procedures in paragraph (2) had been carried out prior to the staff members working in the service.

(4) A certificate was available evidencing one staff member held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. The second adult had a letter from the Minister deeming their qualification to be equivalent to a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5.

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) The inspector observed that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained. There were 3 adults working directly with 15 children. All children were aged over 3 years and were attending on a sessional basis.

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.*

Compliance Information

A sample of nine records for children were reviewed. The particulars outlined under (a) to (i) were documented for each child.

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;
- (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

- (h) Records were available outlining the time each child arrived at and left the service daily.
- (j) The person in charge told the inspector that no child attending the service had received medication. Medication administration record templates were available if required.

Non-Compliance Information

(k) Nine records of accidents and incidents involving children had been recorded since the start of the ECCE year in September 2022. The children’s identifying information was not complete; There was no date of birth documented on any of the records. Five of the records did not include the child’s surname. There was no parent/guardian signature on any of the records to indicate the information had been shared with the children’s parents/guardians.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff meeting was held the following day ensuring that staff are fully aware of the importance of ensuring that all information is included on accident and incident reports. The importance of ensuring that incident and accident reports were signed was also reiterated. A plan was discussed if they were unable to share the report with the parent themselves.

Supporting documentation submitted

Minutes of staff meeting including recording of accidents and incidents.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider have been deemed appropriate in addressing the non-compliance.

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

The inspector observed that reasonable measures had been taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children as outlined in the examples below.

General Safety:

- External entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving the service unsupervised.
- Emergency doors were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Heavy furniture was secured to prevent tipping.
- Records showed that fire-drills are undertaken on a monthly basis.

Infection Control:

- The premises and equipment were observed to be in a clean condition.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Children's hands were washed at required times including before eating and after using the toilet.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal operated, lidded bins.

Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge reported that none of the children had received medication while attending the service. Staff demonstrated an awareness of how to give medication safely if required including obtaining written parent/guardian consent.

Outings:

- The person in charge told the inspector that the service does not undertake outings from the premises.

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) There was always a person with a recognised first aid certificate available to the children.

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position within reach of adults.

(b) The first aid box was always available for use.