

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS097
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Crescent Hill Pre-School
-------------------------	--------------------------

Address of Service:	Scoil Naomh Padraig, Ballyroan Crescent, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D16 XK80
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Putt, Louise McMahon
-------------------------------------	------------------------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	08/11/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	25
-----------------------------------	----	----

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:	E. Finnegan Hayes & L. Jameson
----------------------------------	--------------------------------

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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

Crescent Hill Preschool is a privately run service which operates from a cabin building on the grounds of a primary school in a residential area in South Dublin. The service is registered to provide a sessional service from 9am-1:25pm for 44 children aged 2-6 years old. There are two care rooms in the service; namely the Yellow room which caters to children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years old and the Red room which caters to children aged 3 to 4 years old. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the service accessible directly from both care rooms.

Staffing

The registered providers employ seven staff to work in the service including the person in charge, five early years practitioners and one school aged practitioner who only works with school aged children. The registered providers also 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, safety and premises and facilities. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, 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.*

(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)(b) The service had three designated persons in charge. One person in charge was present in the service when the inspectors arrived.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the registered providers showed that nine adults are employed to work in the service including the registered providers. The files of all nine adults were reviewed.
- (a) (b) Eighteen written and validated references were available in relation to nine adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for nine adults employed in the service. The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that seven adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Evidence was not available to show that one adult who worked directly with early years children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It is acknowledged that a qualification certificate was available however it could not be established that this was an approved qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) Staff Member has applied for the original certificates and applied to DCEDIY for qualification recognition. We will ensure that qualifications produced by new staff members are on the list of recognised qualifications prior to commencing employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Applications to the College, QQI and DCEDIY have been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has attempted to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9(4). As qualification recognition has not yet been received this will remain outstanding. The registered provider must submit the qualification recognition to the inspectorate once received.

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 registered providers ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children on the day of inspection. Four staff were caring for 25 children when the inspectors arrived in the service. The person in charge was available in a supernumerary position to provide cover in rooms as needed.
- (3) Ratios were maintained on the day of inspection. The following was observed;
- In the Red room two adults were caring for seven children aged 3-4 years old.
 - In the Yellow room two adults were caring for eighteen children aged 2 years 8 months - 5 years old.

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;

- Toys and materials were grouped into defined interest areas with adequate props and supporting equipment to support engaging spontaneous play experiences.
- Toys and materials were accessible on low level shelving which allowed children to access them independently.
- A selection of books was available to support children’s language development.
- Cosy areas were available in the care rooms to provide children a comfortable place to rest or engage in quiet activities.
- Low level tables and chairs were available for use by the children which allowed them to engage in tabletop activities and meals comfortably.
- The outdoor area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor and imaginative play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The service has a healthy eating policy which is adhered to in the service.
- The policy includes a list of hazardous items which the service does not permit for lunches such as grapes.
- The service offers lunch and a snack each day which is provided by the children’s parents.
- Staff report that parents comply with the healthy eating policy.
- Drinks were available to the children in individually labelled beakers.

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 to the service was secure on arrival to the service which prevented unauthorised persons gaining access. A chain lock was present on the inside of the door at adult height which prevented children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The garden area was secured with a bolt lock to prevent the children leaving the area unsupervised.
- Cleaning supplies were secured in a press which was fitted with a child proof lock in the Yellow room.
- Risk assessments and cleaning checklists were displayed in the care rooms and completed to date.
- Windows were open to allow fresh air to circulate.

Infection Control:

- Warm water and dispensed soap and paper handtowels were available in the Red room to facilitate adequate hand washing. Adequate hand washing procedures were observed in the Red Room after art and sensory activities as well as after children using the toilet.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in care rooms for hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- Sandpits which were in the outdoor area were adequately covered to prevent access by animals.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.
- Attendance records were completed in a timely manner which will support the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Children's lunches which were brought from home were not refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items. Children's lunches which contained items such as yoghurts were stored in the children's bags. It is acknowledged that parents are encouraged to pack a cold pack with their children's lunch in order to keep the lunch cool however this is not an adequate method to prevent items spoiling.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. A Fridge has been purchased for storing the children's lunches in. Fridge will be used to store children's lunches going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of new fridge.

Summary Comment

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

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) The registered providers ensured that a staff member trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times during the opening hours. FAR certificates for six staff were reviewed; five of whom were present on the day of inspection.

(2) (a) (b) The registered provider ensured that a suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises easily accessible to staff and out of reach of the children.

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 ensured for the type of service provided and number of children attending the service. The insurance certificate reviewed showed the insurance is in place up to 27th March 2025.