

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS123			
Name of Service:	Respond Early Years Service, Ard Mor			
Address of Service:	37 Ard Mor Court, Brookview, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	D24 XF6K			
Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa O'Rourke			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	22/05/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	10
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8			
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien			
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

Respond Early Years Service, Ard Mor is a part time service provided by Respond Support CLG which provides 11 childcare services. The service provides part time and sessional care for children from 2 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 09:00 to 14:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a detached single storey building in a residential area of Tallaght, south Dublin. The service operates from one large care room and has a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 5 staff. There were 4 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b),(2),(4) Management and Recruitment,

11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels,

16(h)(k) Record in relation to pre-school service

19(1)(a)(b) Health, welfare and development of child,

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

29(d) Premises.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under regulation 20(1)(b) Facilities for rest and play.

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.

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

(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 a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)
The files of five adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included one staff member who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 08 June 2022. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a)(b) Of the ten validated, written references that were required, nine were available from a past employer and one was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for five adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with 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 outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (4) Records were available evidencing that five adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or 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.*
- (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 part time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirteen children attending the service being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(h) Details of the attendance of each child were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(k) A sample of ten accident and incident records were reviewed. Some of these records were incomplete as follows;

- Four of these records were not signed by parents.
- Seven records had no second staff signature.

Failure to record accident and incidents correctly and to ensure that parents have been informed of an injury to their child may pose a risk to the continuity of care of the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(k)
At our next staff meeting we discussed the procedure for when an accident or incident occurs within the service.

When the incident happens, it is reported to the manager and the child is supported, first aid is applied where required. We then proceed to complete the accident/incident report form. Care must be taken to ensure that all areas of the form are completed and all necessary signatures obtained.

A new accident and Incident book was purchased. Manager placed stickers on the front of the book outlining the procedure to follow when completing the form.

- White page to the parent
- Pink page remains in the book
- Yellow page is placed into the children's file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

(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)(a)(b)

The person in charge reported that children bring in their lunch from home. Lunch took place at 11:15 and children were given a drink with their meal. Staff supported children who needed assistance with their lunch. Staff were observed eating with the children at lunch and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed and sociable atmosphere.

Children were given responsibility appropriate to their age and were encouraged and supported to be independent. The inspector observed children cleaning up after their play and lunch and putting on their own coats for outdoor play. Staff supported children who required assistance. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and lunch time.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. Staff reminded children to wash their hands at appropriate times.

Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children throughout the inspection. Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour policy.

Transitions within the service were managed with the use of a bell to notify children of an upcoming change and children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed.

Children's language development was supported through one to one and group discussions and songs which were observed during the inspection. Children's choices were respected with children given the opportunity to choose their own play equipment and activities during free play and outdoor play. Individual education plans were available for children who required additional supports and the inspector observed one to one support being given to these children by staff.

Staff described how they communicate with parents regarding their child's day at arrival and collection times and parents were observed in the service at collection time.

The care room was bright and was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included arts and crafts materials, small world toys, dress up clothes, sensory play, a home corner, construction toys, a library and a rest area. The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Children's artwork and a birthday wall were displayed in the care room.

The environment was laid out to support the children’s independence. Low level hooks were provided for coats and bags. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care room.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the rear of the premises with shock absorbent surfacing. All children accessed the outdoor area on the day of inspection. Children were observed to be engaged in their play with adults supporting them as needed. Children were observed engaging in energetic and imaginative play in the outdoor area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The sleep facilities and equipment provided by the service were not suitable for the individual needs of the children attending the service. There were no beds available for children who may require a nap while in the service. The person in charge stated that some children attending occasionally need a nap and that they use the couch in the rest area for this purpose.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

2 day beds have been sourced and are on site.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this 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 found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after outdoor play and before lunch.
- Children's lunches were stored in the refrigerator.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

(d)
On the day of inspection, the service appeared clean and well maintained. There was a routine cleaning schedule present in the care room and sanitary areas and staff were observed cleaning throughout the inspection.