

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS128
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Name of Service:	An Cosán Early Years St. Anne's
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Address of Service:	St. Anne's Primary School, Fettercairn, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 DHY5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Genockey
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	16/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla - Child and Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
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 preschool service is one of seven services operated by An Cosan. The early years service is registered with Tusla to provide sessional care and education for children from 2 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12pm. The early years service is located in an urban setting and operates in a former classroom in St. Anne's Primary School in Tallaght Dublin 24. Children have access to the school yard and a smaller enclosed designated play area.

Staffing

Four staff are employed in the service and on the 16 December 2024 four staff worked directly with the children.

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

The 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.

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

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

11(1) and (2) Staffing Levels

16 (1) (j) and (k) Record in relation to pre-school service

19 Health, welfare and development of child

25 First Aid

26 Fire Safety Measures

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (1)(i) and (k) Record in Relation to Pre-School Service

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) The service had a named person in charge and a person who could deputise in their absence.
- (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived and remained on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2)
- Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that three new staff commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 26 April 2022. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these staff and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a)(b) Five written validated references were available from a past employer and one written validated reference was from a reputable source.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for four staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, none of the new staff employed had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) A record was available evidencing that the staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification, or a qualification deemed by the minister to be 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.

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 was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were fourteen children attending the service being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.

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;

(i) details of staff rosters 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

(1)

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

(i) The staff roster was available and reflected the adults working in the service on the day of inspection.

(j) Records were available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.

(k) A sample of eleven accident and incident forms were reviewed. These forms were completed as 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-

(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

Compliance Information

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together, playing together and other interactions between children which were well managed by the staff who were caring for them. Throughout the inspection staff interacted warmly with the children and were observed to use encouragement, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's policy on behaviour management. Children's choices were respected with children given the opportunity to choose their own activities during free play. Healthy eating was promoted. Parents provided healthy lunches in line with the service's healthy eating policy. Lunchtime was sociable children and staff sat together and ate their lunch. Drinking water was freely available. Children's independence was encouraged, and additional support was provided as required. Children used the toilet independently and washed their hands appropriately after using the toilet while being closely supervised by staff.

The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving provided. Suitable low-level tables and chairs were available for tabletop activities and meals. Designated areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, jigsaws, mark making stations, home corners and dress up materials. There was a calm atmosphere in the service and children were observed to be engaged in their play. Family photos, and children's artwork was displayed in the care room.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the rear of the premises. The outdoor area was well resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment. Children were in the outdoor area when the inspector arrived at the service and they were engaged in a variety of activities including messy play with sand and were observed engaging in imaginary play with dress up costumes.

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) A person trained in first aid for children was at all times adults immediately available to the children attending the pre-school. Two staff had First Aid responder certificates that were valid until 2 August 2025 and the 16 December 2025.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored. The first aid box was easily accessible in the pre-school room and available to children attending the service at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place in the premises; the last recorded fire drill was on the 06 November 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 01 September 2024 and the Smoke alarm was serviced on the 28 August 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on a wall in the pre-school room.