

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS168
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Name of Service:	Tallaght Child Care Centre
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Address of Service:	St. Dominics Road, Millbrook Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 K3EV
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Jackson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	32
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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
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Description of service

Tallaght Childcare Centre is one of two early years services operated by the registered provider. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in an urban, residential area of Tallaght, south Dublin. The premises is a detached single storey purpose-built facility. There are three care rooms in the service. The Waddler room caters for children from 1 to 2 years of age. The Toddler room caters for children from 2 to 3 years of age and the Pre-school room caters for children from 3 to 5 years of age. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the building.

Staffing

The service currently employs 17 staff including a manager. There were 9 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs two cooks and two administration staff. The registered provider 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/ records /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(k) Record in relation to Pre-School Service,
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
- 20(1)(b) Facilities for Rest and Play,
- 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
- 29(e) Premises
- 32(1) Complaints

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations;

- 16(k) Record in relation to Pre-School Service,
- 29(e) Premises.

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.

(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 on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) The files of seventeen adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included six staff members who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 01 November 2022. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the thirty-four references that were required, twenty-five were available from a past employer and nine were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the seventeen staff members. 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 required and was available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that thirteen staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. One of these staff members held a qualification recognition letter from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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 full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty-three children attending the service being supervised by nine 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:

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

Compliance Information

(k) A sample of twenty-six accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately in line with the service's policy on accidents and incidents.

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 service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children were offered breakfast on arrival and a snack of buttered toast was provided during the morning. Dinner was served at 11:30. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day. Children were offered a choice of milk or water with their dinner. Younger children were provided with bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance with their dinner. Staff were observed eating with the children at dinner time and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed and sociable atmosphere.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner as required and in the Waddler room children's wet clothes were changed following dinner. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals using the toilet independently. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated nap time in the Waddler and Toddler rooms.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use encouragement, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour management policy. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and mealtimes.

Transitions within the service were managed appropriately and children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. The atmosphere in the care rooms was observed to be calm and relaxed.

Staff described how they record information about each child's day on a daily record sheet. Parents were observed in the service during drop off and collection times and staff shared information about the children with their parents at these times.

Care rooms were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included construction areas, small world toys, home corners and imaginary play areas, sensory play and rest areas with books. Care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Children's artwork was displayed throughout the service.

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 rooms.

The outdoor area was divided into three areas and was enclosed with a fence and gates. One area had paved surfacing, the second area had shock absorbent surfacing and the final area had a natural grass surface.

A range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided in the outdoor play area which was directly accessible from each care room. All children accessed the outdoor play area on the day of inspection and were observed engaging in imaginary and energetic play.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Appropriate rest facilities were provided for all children under 2 years who were sleeping on floor beds in the Waddler room. The beds available were fitted with firm, flat, waterproof and breathable mattresses.

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 gate and door to the service were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Medicines, hand sanitisers and 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 using the toilet and nappy changing and before meals.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- An adult remained in the room at all times where children were sleeping on low beds.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A trailing cable from a fan was observed hanging from a shelf in reach of the children in the Toddler room posing a risk of injury to children.
2. The radiator cover in the Toddler room was observed to have holes with sharp edges in the front panel posing a risk of injury to children.
3. An underwater display was observed in the Pre-school room. This display consisted of blue plastic which had been stuck to the wall from floor to ceiling. The plastic was observed to be torn in a number of places at the children's level posing a choking risk.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed some practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

4. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes as follows;
 - A staff member was observed to apply cream to children with the same used gloves.
 - A staff member was observed to redress children with the same used gloves.
 - A staff member was observed to clean the changing mat with the same gloves used for nappy changing.

5. Staff were observed lifting the lid of the bin to dispose of waste in the Waddler room.

Administration of Medication:

6. Medication for a child in the Pre-school room was not stored in its original packaging contrary to the service's administration of medication policy.

Safe Sleep:

7. While it is acknowledged that a child, aged 1 year, was observed sleeping on a suitable floor bed in the Waddler room, there were no individual sleep plan in place for this child. It is acknowledged that staff stated they discuss each child's readiness to move from a cot to a low bed with parents, however there was no documentation available to evidence this.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The trailing cable from the fan has been realigned and therefore does not pose a risk of injury to the children in the Toddler room. Ensure all staff are educated in preventing this issue again.
2. A new radiator cover has been purchased and will be fitted once delivered. A safer cover that does not have hole grid has been purchased. Ensure that the radiator covers are checked on monitored on a regular basis to ensure they are safe. Replace radiator covers if they pose a risk to children.
3. The blue plastic has been removed. This material will not be used again in displays.

Infection Control:

4. We have developed a new procedure to ensure all staff are aware of our nappy changing protocol. In the nappy changing area the nappy procedures are displayed and all staff adhere to this.
5. Signs have been placed on all pedal bins and staff reminded of the proper way to use the pedal bins. Staff have been reminded the correct way to use the pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

6. The parent provided us with the correct box with all relevant details on it. Staff and parents have been reminded that we will not take in medication unless it has the child's name and details on it as per our medication policy.

Safe Sleep:

7. A safe sleep document has been completed and signed by the parent of the child observed on day of the inspection. TCC have a safe sleep document which will be distributed as part of our “new child” documentation given to parents on the first day.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

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

Infection Control:

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

Administration of Medication:

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

Safe Sleep:

Written 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 these non-compliances.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

(e)
There was no toilet seat on the children’s toilet located in the nappy changing area. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 01 November 2022. The corrective action as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

We struggled to find a toilet seat to fit this very small toilet but received one this morning from Amazon. It will be fitted straight away. If this toilet seat or any other toilet seat is not in working order a new one will be purchased and the toilet will be out of use until such time it is replaced.

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 these non-compliances.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

Compliance Information

(1) A complaints policy was available in the service which specified the following:

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service.
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with.
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.