

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015DS169 |
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| Name of Service: | An Turas |
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| Address of Service: | Jobstown Childcare Centre Ltd, Fortunestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin |
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| Eircode: | D24 K462 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Lisa Murphy |
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| Service type: | Full Day |
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| Date(s) of Inspection: | 19/05/2023 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 76 | PM | 71 |
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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 |
| Inspection undertaken by: | Fiona Carty and Sarah Quigley |
| 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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

An Turas is a not for profit service located in Tallaght, Dublin 24. The service provides full day, part-time and sessional care to children aged from 0-6 years and offers an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme. The service operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday from a purposely built property. Care is provided across eight care rooms. A large outdoor play area is located to the rear of the property. There is also an office, kitchen and storage rooms.

Staffing

There were 23 adults present on the day of inspection including a cook, cleaner, manager and an additional staff member who was not assigned to a care room and assisted in numerous rooms throughout the day.

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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 16 and 19 (1). As a result, the scope of the inspection focussed on the ECCE 1, Wobbler 1 and 2, Toddler and Preschool 1 and 2 rooms.

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 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,

(c)(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

(2) The person in charge stated there had been one new staff member recruited since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 15th March 2021. The following documents were available for the adult:

(a) Two validated past employer references

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure.

(d) Not applicable as the staff member had not lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) The staff member had attained a Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) A review of documentation evidenced that the procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2) had not been completed prior to the adult commencing employment in the service. Garda vetting had not been received and the past employer references had not been received prior to the staff member commencing in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3)
Staff will not commence employment until all required documentation has been received. The recruitment policy has been updated to reflect this change.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive measures were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 9.

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 pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. On the day of inspection, there were 76 children present in the service being supervised by 21 adults.

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) A written record was available in each care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Written records of administration of medication to preschool children were available in the service. A sample reviewed on the day of inspection documented signed parental consent.
 - (k) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection.

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-

(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

The service provided breakfast, snacks, a hot meal, and an afternoon tea to the children. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff provided assistance to children where required. Staff supported the children to wash their hands and clean their faces at appropriate times throughout the inspection.

The play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led. Children were observed exploring their environment, engaged in activities and playing with each other and the staff. The children were all provided with the opportunity to play outdoors and were dressed appropriately to the weather. Older children were observed using the toilet independently and younger children wearing nappies were changed regularly and as required. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and making conversation. Staff demonstrated kindness and affection during interactions observed by the inspectors in most of the care rooms, and comfort was provided promptly if a child became upset.

The sleep room was relaxed and conducive to sleep. The children attending the Wobbler and Toddler rooms were provided with an opportunity to sleep after their lunch and rest areas were available in all care rooms so children could relax or take time away from the group if required.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Appropriate care practices were not observed in the Toddler room during the inspection as follows:

- A staff member used a raised voice and negative language during interactions with children throughout the morning of the inspection. Behaviours were not managed appropriately, inspectors overheard staff members repeatedly using terms such as 'no', and 'stop that carryon' during the inspection without offering any positive solution, explanations or positive reinforcement. One staff member was overheard by the inspector using threats to the children in order to manage their behaviour for example "I'm eating your dinner because you won't sit down" and "if you do that again you're not getting another drink".

It is acknowledged that these practices were not observed in any other care room throughout the inspection.

2. Bibs were not provided in the Wobbler 1 room to protect the children's clothes from becoming soiled or dirty during meals.
3. Staff in the Wobbler 1 room stated that they never bring the children to the garden for outdoor play. The staff member stated the children had never accessed the garden since they began attending the service.
4. The sleep needs of two children attending the Wobbler 1 Room were not met on the day of inspection. The inspector observed the children showing signs of tiredness throughout the morning however, they were not placed to sleep despite there being a designated sleep room adjacent to the care room.
5. There was no drinking water available to the children in the Toddler room, bottles of diluted fruit juice were observed to be given to children in the Wobbler 1 room which can affect oral hygiene.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(19)

1. In house training has been provided to ensure our commitment to protecting and promoting the rights of the children in our care are adhered to at all times.
2. protective cloths are now in use and staff have been instructed to use them.
3. An outside play area has been allocated to the children. A buggy has been provided for children who cannot walk.
4. A meeting was held with staff to ensure children's needs were met at all times. An extra staff member has been allocated to this room.
5. Water stations have been placed in all rooms. All fruit juices have been removed from the rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

5. A photograph of a water station was submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted to the inspector were reviewed and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 19.

These non-compliances will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 inspectors 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 with a buzz in system to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. Cleaning products, hazardous materials, hand-sanitisers and medications were stored safely out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order and no hazards were identified in the indoor or outdoor environments.

Infection Control:

Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. . Staff confirmed that appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Safe Sleep:

Standard cots were available for children under 2 years.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were kept clear from obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The hand washing practices observed in the service were not consistent and were at variance with the Infection Control Policy as follows:

- No hand washing took place in the Toddler room before dinner or following outdoor play.
- No hand washing was observed at all in the Wobbler 1 throughout the inspection.
- The nappy changing practices observed were not in line with the service policy. The inspector observed no hand washing following the change for staff or children. The staff members re-dressed the child using soiled gloves and the mat was not wiped down with disinfectant between nappy changes.

2. The hand towels were not stored in a dispenser which could cause a risk of cross contamination.

3. Staff were observed to use a bin that was not pedal operated to dispose of soiled nappies. The staff member was observed to push the soiled nappies into the bin which could pose a risk of cross contamination.

Administration of Medication:

4. A number of medication records were reviewed and were not completed appropriately. Several records did not have a parent signature or staff witness signature which could affect the continuity of care of a child when receiving medication.

Safe Sleep:

5. A child was observed to fall asleep in a staff members arms in the Wobbler 1 care room and was asleep from 10.20am to 12pm on a mattress that was the cosy corner with large cushions surrounding him. There were no sleep checks completed at all and the child was put to sleep fully clothed with their shoes on.

Fire Safety:

6. Fire drills were not completed monthly, the inspector reviewed records which showed that the drills were only being completed quarterly which could affect the ability of the children and staff to exit the property in a timely manner in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. and 2. Staff have been retrained. The Health and Safety Policy has been given to staff.
3. Staff retrained and pedal bin provided.

Administration of Medication:

4. Staff have been retrained on procedures. Management double check when staff give medication.

Safe Sleep:

5. Staff have been informed that sleep facilities are used at all times. An extra staff member has been allocated to the room and will monitor and complete the paperwork.

Fire Safety:

6. Fire drills carried out monthly. The safety officer has been informed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. and 2. A revised nappy changing policy together with hand washing signage was submitted to the inspector.
3. No supporting documentation submitted.

Administration of Medication:

4. No supporting documentation submitted.

Safe Sleep:

5. No supporting documentation submitted.

Fire Safety:

6. No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted to the inspector were reviewed and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 23.

These non-compliances will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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

(2)(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person was not available in the service with First Aid Responder training. It is acknowledged that a number of staff members had a Paediatric First Aid certificate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) FAR training has been completed subsequent to the inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the training certificates were submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation submitted to the inspector were reviewed and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 25.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 18th January 2023.

(b) The maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 17th October 2022.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) The maintenance of the fire fighting equipment was not completed annually as required. The last certificate available was dated March 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The service has been completed and will be rebooked when due.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b) Copies of the service documentation were submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted to the inspector were reviewed and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 26.

These non-compliances will be reviewed on the next inspection.