

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:	13/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	70	PM	27
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and S 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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

An Turas is a not for profit service operated by the registered provider. Full day care, part time care and sessional care is provided for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The service is purpose built and operates from the ground floor of a mixed use development. There are eight care rooms in the service. There are two dedicated sleep rooms and a large enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs twenty eight staff including a manager and three cooks. There were twenty three adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Bumblebees, Little Tigers, Butterflies, Little Cubs and Meerkat 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,

(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

(2)

Documentation was reviewed in respect of all twenty eight adults working in the service. The following records were available for the adults:

(a)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had reviewed and validated forty three references from a past employer in respect of twenty six adults.

(b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had reviewed and validated eleven references from a source other than a past employer for eight adults.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults in the service. 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 not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that twenty one staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

One reference each for two adults were not acceptable as they were not from a past employer or reputable source.

(4)

A qualification for one adult was not accepted as they did not hold 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(9)

(2)(a)(b)

Requested an additional reference from management for past employee. Not accept reference if the person worked alongside the individual.

(4)

Will not work directly with children until full qualification is obtained. Check qualification accepted by the National Qualifications Framework. Management meeting with staff member regarding their role within the centre.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b)

Two past employer references submitted.

(4) No supporting documents submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been adequately addressed.

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 with the children. There were working with seventy children in the morning and six adults working with twenty seven adults in the afternoon..

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of ten records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspectors to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the records detailed all of the required information outlined under Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i).

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

(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

(1)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children are offered breakfast on arrival and a fruit snack is provided during the morning. Dinner was served at 11:30. All children were given water with their dinner. Younger children were provided with bibs for dinnertime and were encouraged to feed themselves. Staff were observed sitting with children and engaging in conversation during dinner. Additional servings of dinner were available if requested and inspectors observed more food being offered and given to children.

Children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently. Staff supported the children with handwashing at appropriate times and helped them to clean their faces after eating.

The children attending on a full-time basis in the Little Lions, Little Cubs and Little Meerkats rooms were provided with the opportunity to sleep according to their needs. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers to those who used them.

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.

A record was kept for staff to communicate with parents/guardians in relation to the individual children's care. This included information relating to sleep, and nappy-changes. Staff demonstrated warmth in their interactions with the use of soft and gentle tones.

The care rooms provided developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. There was a range of play materials including small world toys, construction toys, musical instruments and books. Appropriate sized furniture was available for the children to sit at.

Family photos, birthday walls and children's artwork were displayed in the care rooms.

A large fully enclosed outdoor area was available. The area was resourced with climbing frames, slides, ride on toys tough trays and sand boxes.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The rest areas in the Little Lions, Bumblebees and Little Tigers rooms was not adequate for the age and number of children attending the rooms. There was a small mat and two cushions available in the Bumblebees room for fourteen children attending on the busiest day. The Lions room had a small tent and soft mat for twelve children attending on the busiest day and the Little Tigers room did not have any rest area available for five children aged 2 – 3 years.
2. The sleep room in the Butterfly room is not conducive to sleep as there is no blind on the window preventing the room from becoming darkened.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Assessment of the cosy corners have been re-evaluated and action has been taken to ensure the children have an appropriate rest area when needed. Monitor equipment in playrooms.
2. Children were removed on said day and placed in an adjoining room to facilitate sleep. Room remained closed and is opening in September 2024 as a messy play area.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photos of new cosy areas in the Lions, Tigers and Bumblebee's rooms.
2. Photo of the blinds secured in the sleep room.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 has been adequately addressed.

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 to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- 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.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered twice per week.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and the younger care rooms, and individual children's observations recorded every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits remained clear.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A storage area underneath the sink in the Butterfly room was unlocked and contained cleaning agents which were accessible to the children. These products can be harmful to children should they be ingested.
2. An area of impact absorbing material in the outdoor area was missing creating a trip hazard for the children when playing outdoors.

Infection Control:

3. In the Butterfly room the children's hands were not washed following after the nappy change. This is ineffective for infection control.

Fire Safety:

4. Regular fire drills did not take place in the service. Records stated that fire drills were not taking place monthly as stated in the service policy. This can prevent the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Cleaning products removed from storage area and stored on shelving unit that is out of reach of children. Ensure cleaning products are out of reach at all times.
2. Wooded sand pit was placed on area with material missing. Maintenance person will monitor outside play environment.

Infection Control:

3. Staff retrained in infection control. Management will monitor and provide staff training when required.

Fire Safety:

4. Fire drills will commence on the first Monday of every month. Management will monitor and ensure procedures are carried out monthly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No supporting documentation submitted.
2. Photo of sandpit placed on the missing surfacing.

Infection Control:

3. Copy of nappy change training certificate.

Fire Safety:

4. Copy of completed fire drill.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation was reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of 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.

Compliance Information

(1)

A person trained in First Aid Responder is available to the children 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A record in writing of fire drills was available for inspection. The last fire drill took place on the 30th April 2024.
 - (b) A record of the servicing of the smoke alarms was available the last service took place on the 18th December 2023. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced during May 2023.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
- The cot room in the Butterfly room was not adequately ventilated which may pose a health risk to children aged two years who slept here on a daily basis. There was no openable window or any means of mechanical ventilation in the room to allow for the circulation of air. A number of children aged 2 years slept in this room on a daily basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Children removed on said day and placed in an additional room that was well ventilated. Room closed until window is adjusted to secure ventilation.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of new sleep room.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting document have addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 29.