

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

aTUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS181				
Name of Service:	StartBright Bawnogue				
Address of Service:	ACE Enterprise Park, Bawnogue Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin				
Eircode:	D22 W6V3				
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Mc Quillan				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	13/03/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>41</td> <td>PM</td> <td>38</td> </tr> </table>	AM	41	PM	38
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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

Startbright Bawnogue is one of seven not-for-profit childcare services operated by the registered provider located in an urban setting in South West Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 1 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.00pm. The premises is located in a mixed commercial and office building and comprises of four care rooms, Blossoming Butterflies for children aged 1 – 2 years, Busy Bees for children aged 2 – 3 years and the Young Explorers and Bright Sparks which catered for children aged 3 years and over. An outdoor area was available to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are thirteen staff employed by the service including the service manager and a cook. On the day of inspection there were eleven staff present, a cook, an adult participating on a community employment scheme and a student. The service manager was not present and the deputy person in charge facilitated the 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. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, record in relation to a preschool child. 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 children, person in charge and staff 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

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of all adults who were present on the day of inspection.

- (2)
- (a)(b) There were twenty one validated references from a past employer and five references for a source other than a past employer available for thirteen adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults and were received within the last three years.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for one adult who required it.
- (4) All adults requiring a qualification held a minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) There were no references available for two adults present on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The 2 adults that were present on the day was a Student and a CE worker. The student has finished work experience with us, however I have 2 references for her attached and the CE worker as she has never worked before, I have got a reference from her CE Supervisor.

Supporting documentation submitted

Outstanding references have been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were reviewed by the inspector and met the 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 forty one children present in the service being supervised by thirteen 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;*

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Children's attendance records were all recorded in designated roll books in each room together with the online application.

(i) A staff roster was available and documented all staff who were present 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-

(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 provided breakfast, snacks and a hot meal, and an evening snack to the children in attendance. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff provided assistance to children where required. Bibs were worn in younger care rooms to protect the children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Drinking water was available in the care rooms at all times. Staff supported the children to wash their hands at appropriate times throughout the inspection and clean their faces after mealtimes.

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. Staff were observed discussing topical subjects which included the Irish flag and a pot of gold.

Each care room was resourced with a variety of materials and activities all contained on low level shelving and designated play areas including a home corner, cosy area with books and construction area.

Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and making conversation. Older children were observed using the toilet independently and younger children wearing nappies were changed regularly and as required.

Staff demonstrated kindness and affection during all interactions observed by the inspectors, and comfort was provided promptly if a child became upset.

Staff used an online application to document the children's routine including sleep times and food which parents could access at all times, verbal communication was also observed at collection time.

Children in the Blossoming Butterflies room had a designated sleep room that could be used whenever a child displayed signs of tiredness. Staff provided comfort to the children when they were settling to sleep, using soft tones and offering reassurance where required. The sleep room was relaxed and conducive to sleep. The children attending the young explorers room were provided with an opportunity to sleep after their dinner. There were rest areas available in all room for children to rest when required.

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

General Safety:

- Blind cords were secured out of reach of children.
- Heavy furniture was secured to prevent tipping.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The entrance to the service was secured ensuring no unauthorised access or egress to and from the service.

Infection Control:

- Children's hands were washed at appropriate times to prevent the spread of infection.
- The Pre-school rooms and sanitary facilities were observed to be in a clean condition.
- Children's nappies were changed in a manner that reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with liquid soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Pedal operated, lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored appropriately in the original packaging out of reach of children.
- Parent/guardian consent had been obtained for medications which had been given to children attending the service.

Safe Sleep:

- Inspectors observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks.
- The required temperature of the rooms were not maintained when children were sleeping to prevent overheating.
- Appropriate bedding was used to prevent overheating.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. The fire exits in the Young Explorers room were blocked with children resting on stackable beds during sleep time. The safe evacuation of children and adults during an emergency would be compromised due to the fire exits being blocked.

It is acknowledged that the manager of the service sent photographic evidence of a change to the positioning of the beds in the days following the inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

All stackable beds in Bright Sparks have been changed to ensure nothing is obstructing the exits.

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

Photographs of the rearranged room were submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were reviewed by the inspector and met 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

There were three staff trained in First Aid Responder 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 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 27th February 2024.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced during April 2023 and the smoke alarms on 16th February 2024.