

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS212
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Name of Service:	Hansel & Gretel Playschool
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Address of Service:	The Bush Centre, Balgaddy, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 VP97
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Name of Registered Provider:	Natasha Moore
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	16/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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 part time service is located in an urban setting. A service is provided to children aged between two and six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 7:45am and 6.00pm including a sessional service from 9:00am to 12:00pm for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is also provided. The premises are located in a Scout Hall in Lucan, Co Dublin. The service has access to a large playroom, indoor hall and outdoor area to the front of the property.

Staffing

There were four adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider. Three adults were working 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

This inspection 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, and 26.

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 registered provider, 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

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of all staff who worked in the service.

- (2)
- (a)(b)
- Of the ten references required seven written and validated references were available from a past employer. A further three written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications or equivalent for all staff members.

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)
- There was an adequate number of adults working with the children during the inspection. There were three adults working directly with thirteen preschool children attending the service.
- (2)
- The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained 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:

- (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) Attendance records were maintained and accurately reflected the children attending the service on the day of inspection.
- (i) A roster was available detailing staff working hours.
- (j) There was no records available of medication administered to children as the registered provider stated there had been no medication administered to children since the last inspection.
- (k)
- Records were available detailing any accident and incidents that had taken place in the service.

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 inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during 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.

Staff were observed interacting warmly with the children when providing personal care and demonstrated an awareness of each child's individual care needs. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children, addressing them by name and making conversation.

Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require support.

An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas. There were a variety of equipment and materials that met the developmental needs of the children. The play room had a range of various play equipment and interest areas together with an outdoor area which was accessible directly from the care room which had a wide variety of equipment available to the children..

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:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Children washed hands before mealtimes, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap. Pedal bins were available throughout the service.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were kept clear and regular fire drills took place in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There were no paper towels available to children. Children were observed using toilet roll to dry their hands after washing them. Using tissue is ineffective for drying and infection control.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. New blue roll holder has been installed. Staff have been told not to use toilet tissue to dry hands, and only blue roll/disposable paper towels will be used going forward

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photos of new dispenser and roll in place.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents were 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.

(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 Responder was available to children at all times.

(2)

(a)(b) A fully equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position and available to the 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.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A record in writing was available of fire drills that took place in the service.

(b) A record was available on the day of inspection detailing that the fire fighting equipment was serviced on the 7th February 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The record of maintenance of the smoke alarms was not available to view on the day of inspection.

It is acknowledged that the registered provider sent the information to the inspector on the 24th September 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Company that deals with the smoke alarms was immediately contacted, and the inspection was carried out within a few days, and cert issued to inspector on 24/09/2024. Company have been instructed / engaged to carry out annual inspections, by the owners of the building.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the fire maintenance certificate.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 26.