

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS226
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Name of Service:	Killinarden Family Resource Centre
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Address of Service:	Killinarden Family Resource Centre, Killinarden Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 TC91
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Bolger
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Service type:	Drop-In
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Date of Inspection:	12/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	n/a
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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

Killinarden Family Resource Centre is a drop-in service and is registered to provide care for children from 0 to 6 years. The service operates from 10:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in an urban residential area and is located in a room in the Killinarden Family Resource Centre which is a single storey building. There is no outdoor play area on the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs two staff members who were working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection but does not work 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 was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (1)(2) - Record of a pre-school 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

(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 both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)
The files of two adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the four validated, written references that were required, two were available from a past employer and two were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the two adults.

(4) Records were available evidencing that the two staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

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.

(6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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.

(6) The minimum ratio of adults to children for drop-in centres was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were three children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres

(1) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service or a preschool service in a drop-in centre shall ensure there are no more than 24 children attending the service at any given time.

(3) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.

Compliance Information

(1) The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 7 pre-school children at any one time.

(3) The service operates from 10:00 to 12:00, Monday to Friday which ensures that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.

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;

(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;

(2) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of 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 particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(d)(e)(f) (2)

A sample of ten records were reviewed which demonstrated that a record was available in writing which contained the information required in (a)(d)(e) and (f) above.

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)

Staff reported that children bring a snack from home to the service. Snack time took place at 11:20 and staff were observed sitting with children at this time and engaging in conversation with children promoting a relaxed atmosphere. Care was given to children's appearance as they had their hands and faces cleaned following their snack.

Younger children's nappies were changed as required and staff interacted warmly with children when providing this care. Children were supported to wash their hands after nappy changes.

The routine in the service was observed to be child-led, and children were observed to be engaged in their play. Children were observed being given the freedom to choose their own play activities. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour management policy. The staff described how they communicate with parents at arrival and collection times.

The care room was arranged to provide a range of play materials including imaginary play, construction equipment, jigsaws and a library. The care room facilitated a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available.

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 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.
- Hand sanitisers and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

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 changes.
- The service had a cleaning schedule in place and the premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of a pedal bin.
- Children's nappies were changed appropriately to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

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 was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.