

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS231		
Name of Service:	Clondalkin Lucan Centre		
Address of Service:	CLC St. Loman's Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	K78 P7W9		
Name of Registered Provider:	James Fletcher		
Service type:	Drop-In		
Date(s) of Inspection:	29/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter Kilmainham, Dublin 8		
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty		
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		

Description of service

This drop in service is located in an urban setting within Clondalkin Lucan Centre. The service is located within the main building, and provides a service for parents attending the centre. A service is provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 17:00, closing for an hour between 13:00 and 14:00. The service operates from a single room with adjacent sanitary accommodation and an outdoor area to the rear.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service and was one adult present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. Two of the adults working directly with the children held major awards in early childhood care and education at a minimum level 5.

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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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

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 person in charge 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

(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

(1) (a)(b) There was a designated person in charge, and a named deputy in place. The designated person was on premises throughout the inspection.

(2) There were no new adults employed since the last inspection.

(a)(b) Validated past employer references were available for both adults.

(c) Garda vetting was available for both adults.

(d) Not required as no adult had lived abroad for a period exceeding 6 months.

(4) Both staff members held a qualification at a minimum level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) (6) On review of staff sign in, and attendance records, there is always an adequate number of adults working within the service.

(8)(a) Through discussion with the person in charge, two adults are 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.

(2) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 8 hours consecutively.

(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 registered provider ensured that the maximum number for a drop in service was complied with. There was a maximum of 2 preschool children on the premises on the day of inspection.

(2) The service does not operate a temporary pre-school service.

(3) The records showed that no pre-school child attended the drop-in service for more than 2 hours consecutively. The service operates an appointment system that ensure this is always adhered to.

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,

Compliance Information

The layout of the care-room was inviting and provided areas of interest for children to engage with. As there are children from 0 – 6 years attending the service there are various materials available that was suitable to their age and stage of development. There was a home corner which included dolls, a dolls bed, kitchen and a buggy. Equipment included musical instruments, activity centres, dolls houses, small world play and jigsaws. There were creative equipment including crayons, pencils and various colouring pages. A book area and construction area were also present.

A tent and tunnel were available for younger children and there was various equipment to support their development and growth including activity centres, push toys and activities with various textures and colours.

Low level tables and chairs were available to accommodate children of varying ages.

Staff supported children in their play offering them choice in their play. They sat with them giving support and help when asked. Children had the freedom to choose their own activities.

Staff work with a multidisciplinary team within the centre to support the children and verbally communicate with parents and carers at arrival and collection time.

An outdoor area was available to the rear of the property. It contained a climbing frame, slide and seesaw.

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:

The door to the drop-in centre was secured with access for staff only. The entrance door to the service was adequately secured and a video monitoring system was used to gain entry ensuring the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service.

All cleaning products and equipment, and hazardous materials were stored safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, paper hand towels and warm water was available to facilitate hand washing. Pedal operated bins were available. There was a daily and weekly cleaning schedule in place.

Fire Safety:

All emergency exits were kept clear and the person in charge stated that regular fire drills took place in the service.

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) Both staff members were trained in First Aid Responder available to the children

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous positions within the service.

(b) The first aid boxes were always available to the children.