

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS234
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Name of Service:	Deansrath Family Centre Play and Development
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Address of Service:	42 Kilcronin Court, St Cuthberts Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
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Eircode:	D22 E3C8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Feehan
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	22/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	H Sutherland
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 is located in a residential area of Clondalkin, Dublin 22

Deansrath Family Centre Play and Development is located in a residential area in Clondalkin, Dublin 22 and is one of two early years services operated by the Deansrath Family Centre organisation. The service operates from a single storey, purposely adapted building with one care room, sanitary facilities and a large outdoor area to the rear of the premises. Care and education are offered to children aged between 2 and 6 years and the service opens Monday to Thursday from 8:50 am to 12:30 pm.

Staffing

There are currently two adults employed to work in the service, one of whom is the person in charge. On the day of inspection, two adults were present working directly with the children. The manager who oversees the running of both services arrived after the inspection commenced and remained present for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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 and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1) (a-c), (2) (a-d), (3), (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1), (2), (8) Staffing Levels

Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 26 (1), (a), (b), (2)(c), (4) Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28 Insurance

An additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 22 Food and drink. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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, 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, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
 - (c) Adults demonstrated an understanding of their roles and responsibilities and the lines of authority within the service.
- (2) A review of records provided on inspection confirmed that one adult commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 25 January 2022. Documentation required under Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was

reviewed in respect of the adult as detailed below. The requirements of Regulation 9(2)(c) relating to Garda Vetting were reviewed for all three adults.

- (a) One written and verified reference was available from a past employer.
 - (b) One written and verified reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
 - (d) Not required
- (3) Documentation reviewed provided evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the adult commencing employment in the service.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that the adult held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs. There were three adults available to four children in the morning and three adults available to four children in the afternoon.
- (3) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained for the duration of the 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-

(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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed during the inspection. The inspector observed positive interactions between staff and children, with staff responding warmly and attentively to children's verbal and nonverbal cues. Staff reported that the service provides breakfast and a hot meal for the children daily. A three-week menu was available for review on the parents noticeboard. On the day of inspection, the children were offered quiche and vegetables for their dinner. Staff sat with children at mealtimes and engaged in conversation supporting the development of their social skills and gently encouraged the children to try the food provided. Nappy changing was observed to be a positive, respectful experience for children and staff reported that children's nappies were changed on a schedule and as needed. Children were supported to be self-caring and independent. For example, washing their hands and tidying up following play. Children were observed to move freely around the environment both indoors and outdoors. During this time, staff were consistently available to the children and when invited, actively engaged in their play. All children spent time outdoors during the inspection and were appropriately dressed for the weather. During outdoor play, the children were observed gathering berries to feed the birds, demonstrating care for nature and developing an awareness of the environment.

Staff provided children with advance notice of a change in activity which supported smooth, calm transitions between the daily routine. Staff explained that parents are invited to attend the service during their child's settling period to build positive relationships with the team, supporting the child's transition and their sense of security. Children were supported to find positive solutions during minor conflicts, staff were observed to drop to the children's level, use verbal explanation and suggested resolutions. The person in charge informed the inspector that parents are provided with daily opportunities to discuss key aspects of their child's day. Information is also provided via text message and phone calls.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

During the inspection, it was observed that children were given juice with their breakfast and dinner. Drinking water was not accessible or offered to children during the inspection. This practice does not align with healthy eating guidelines and is at variance with the services healthy eating policy, which states that milk or water will be provided with meals.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service will no longer offer apple juice to children. Staff have re-familiarised themselves with the services healthy eating policy, going forward children will be provided with milk or water.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 22 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

General Safety:

- The front door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. The rear outdoor area had a high perimeter wall, fencing and secured gates.
- The kitchen and storage areas were inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Documented risk assessments for the outdoor area were available for review.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm running water and single use paper towels were available at wash hand basins.
- Effective hand washing practices were observed to control the spread of infection. For example, children were observed to wash their hands after nappy changing and following outdoor play.
- The care room was visibly clean and well maintained and documented cleaning schedules were available for review.

Administration of Medication:

- The person in charge reported that the service does not administer medication to children.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit was observed to be unobstructed for the duration of the inspection.
- Staff members adequately detailed the procedures to follow to ensure the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A sheet of wood attached to a gate in the outdoor area was broken and decayed in parts, leaving rough edges that posed a potential risk of injury to a child.
2. Steel plant clips were observed to be protruding from the back wall in the outdoor area posing a potential risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

3. The waste disposal bins in the sanitary and outdoor area did not support effective waste management. Bins in the sanitary area and outdoor area were not pedal operated and did not have lids posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The sheet of decayed wood was removed from the gate in the outdoor area. The gate will be checked for hazards as part of the daily risk assessment.
2. The steel plant clips have been removed from the wall. The garden walls will be checked for hazards as part of the daily risk assessment.

Infection Control:

3. Pedal operated bins have been purchased. Bins will be checked as part of the daily risk assessment to ensure they are functioning correctly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence submitted

Infection Control:

Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position 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 took place on 17 July 2025.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was up to date. Fire extinguishers were serviced in February 2025 and the smoke alarms were serviced on 3 July 2025.
- (2)

(c) The above-mentioned records were open to inspection by the early years inspector.

(4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall next to the fire exit.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed provided evidence that the service is adequately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children in attendance. The service is insured for a maximum of 20 children and cover is valid until 27 March 2026.