

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY009				
Name of Service:	Apple of My Eye				
Address of Service:	Unit 9, Meakstown Commercial Centre, Finglas, Dublin 11				
Eircode:	D11 KP08				
Name of Registered Provider:	Maria Toomey				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	16/04/2024				
Regulatory Compliance Meeting:	26/06/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>41</td> <td>PM</td> <td>37</td> </tr> </table>	AM	41	PM	37
AM	41	PM	37		

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:	E. Finnegan Hayes & T. Nelson
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.

Description of service

Apple of My Eye is a privately operated service providing full day, part time and sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years old. The service operates from a two-storey purposely adapted commercial unit from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The service consists of four care rooms, a cot room, a sensory room, an office, kitchen, and sanitary facilities. The Baby and Toddler rooms are located on the ground floor while the Tiger room and the Toddler/ECCE room are located on the first floor. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs twelve staff to work in the service including the service manager, of these ten staff were present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with the children 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 premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under;

- Regulations 9(1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 16 (j)(k) Records in relation to the preschool service,
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of child,
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
- Regulation 24 (1),(3)(a)(b) Checking in and out and record of attendance,
- Regulation 26 (1)(a)(b), (4) Fire Safety,
- Regulation 29 (c) Premises,

However, on inspection additional non-compliance's which posed a risk was identified under;

- Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
- Regulation 27 Supervision,
- Regulation 29 (d) Premises

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice under Regulation 23- Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child was issued to the registered provider following the closing meeting on 17th April 2024. A written response was received on 18th April 2024. The response adequately addressed two of the five concerns raised however additional information was requested to address the remaining three concerns. A written response which addressed the outstanding concerns was received on 19th April 2024. Further details can be found under Regulation 23.

A regulatory compliance meeting was held with the service on 26th June 2024.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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,*

(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

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required.
 - (b) The roster showed that a designated person in charge is rostered to be on the premises during the opening hours of the service.
- (2) A review of the roster, discussion with management and a review of our own records showed that the files of five staff and two students had not been reviewed on the last inspection. The files of these seven adults were reviewed. Updated Garda vetting disclosures were also sought in relation to three staff whose files were reviewed on the last inspection.
- (a) (b) Fourteen written and verified references were available in relation to seven adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for ten staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside of Ireland for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that five adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

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.*

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children for example three staff were caring for 14 children aged 21 months to 4 years in the Toddler room from 8:30am-8:57am however one staff was required to leave the room to answer the door to arriving children which impacted the care of the children in the room. This was also evident during a transition of seven children from the Toddler room downstairs to the Toddler/ECCE room upstairs further details of which can be found under Regulation 27.
- (2) Ratios were not observed to be maintained at all times for example;
- Two staff members were caring for 15 children aged 1-3 years in the Toddler and Cot room from 12:15pm-12:45pm. Three staff were required to maintain the ratio.
 - One staff member was caring for 9 children aged 3- 4 years in the Toddler/ ECCE room between 1-1:30pm. Two staff were required to maintain the ratio.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has recently employed a new full-time member of staff who will start in July 2024. The service has also managed to employ 2 additional relief staff members for the summer to cover sickness and any other shortages in staffing. The service will continue to monitor the staffing levels at all times of the day, and to continue to manage the changing needs regarding the active rota to ensure that rooms are covered to ratio at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation in relation to above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 11.

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:

- (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

(k) A sample of 14 accident and incident records were reviewed all of which were completed in full.

Non-Compliance Information

(j) One medication administration record was provided for review however due to the method used to record the administration this did not contain the required signature of the person administering the medication, a witness to the administration, or the parent/guardian in line with the service policy.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The record has now been signed. The service has reviewed the policy, and in the interest of clarity where approvals and dosage are concerned, the service have decided to continue with the policy, using paper and signed consent forms. Staff have been notified and it was reiterated during the staff meeting held in June.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance identified. This regulation will be reviewed on the next 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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- The service has a healthy eating policy. Water was provided to the children with their meals.
- Nappy changing was done on a set schedule and as needed to ensure the child's comfort. Toilet trained children were supported to access the toilets as required during the day.

Supporting relationships around Children:

- Staff were observed to use gentle tones when speaking to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic needs

1. Staff did not have access to care plans for four children who required additional support in one care room. Care plans are required to ensure the developmental needs of the children are supported and to minimise risk. It is acknowledged that care plans were provided via email following the feedback meeting the day after the inspection.
2. Staff were not observed to implement the service behaviour management policy for example children were observed sitting on tables and standing and walking on the chairs. While staff did address the behaviour in some instances much of the behaviour went unaddressed and staff were observed in some instances to address children's behaviour from across the room with no follow up. The behaviour management policy advises that rules will be applied consistently to all children and that children will be supported to understand what is expected of them. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in March 2023 the corrective and preventive actions provided by the registered provider have not been sufficient to prevent recurrence.

3. Transitions were observed to be unplanned and poorly managed causing upset for the children in the service. For example, sufficient notice of a transition was not provided to the older children prior to them moving upstairs in the morning, one child did not have time to gather their belongings which led to upset during the transition. In the Toddler room the sensory tray was opened, and children were told they had two minutes before lunchtime; handwashing started almost immediately, and children were observed to wash their hands and return to the sand tray to continue playing. This extended the transition as children's hands had to be rewashed. Children need notice that a transition is coming to allow them to finish their activity and prepare for the transition. This provides a sense of security and structure to their day.
4. Children attending the service did not access the outdoor area on the day of inspection despite the weather being dry. A garden rota was available with designated times for each room to access the garden however staff advised they only go to the garden when the weather is good. Daily access to the outdoor area supports physical health and promotes mental, social and emotional well-being, and providing Children with an opportunity to explore and engage in gross motor activities more than is appropriate in the indoor environment.

Physical and Material environment

5. The environment in the Toddler /ECCE and Toddler rooms did not support the children to engage in meaningful play experiences in line with their emerging interests, for example play areas were not defined in either care room, materials were not grouped together and no cosy areas for the children to sit and relax as required. For example;
 - In the Toddler /ECCE room props were not available for the kitchen, props for the doll house were not sufficient or located in close proximity, books and dress up were not appropriately displayed to support children's engagement.
 - In the Toddler room toys and equipment were limited, lacked supporting equipment and a number of toys were broken including the dolls carrycot and two playhouses which limited the play value, there was also a lack of supporting equipment for the kitchen and dolls house.

Defined interest areas provide opportunities for the children to initiate activities and engage in spontaneous play in line with their interests. A lack of defined interest areas in the Toddler room was noted as a non-compliance on the last two inspections in 2022 and 2023. The service has advised that they have engaged a quality support service.

- Chairs in the Toddler room were not the correct size for the children present or for use with the two circular tables. Children's feet were observed to dangle when they sat correctly on the chair and when the chair was pushed into the table the table sat directly on top of the children's legs at a low level for comfort. During dinner children were observed to sit on the edge of the chairs to counteract this issue. Children need appropriately sized chairs that allow them to sit comfortably while engaging in meals and tabletop activities.

Programme of Activities

- The programme of activities in the Toddler room was observed to be adult led and lacked a defined structure. Staff were observed to plan the day as they went along for example yoga was done in the morning at 9:20am, yoga was offered again as an activity an hour later, but dancing was done when staff advised yoga had already been done. Children were observed wandering around the room throughout the day with little to engage them. A defined structure provides children with a sense of familiarity, provides comfort, and sets expectations. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in March 2023 the corrective and preventive actions provided by the registered provider have not been sufficient to prevent recurrence.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- As per the inspection report, care plans have been compiled and are displayed for the children in our care who require one. The need of a care plan has been added to our new start checklist to ensure they are completed and displayed for those children who will benefit from it.
- A more structured routine is now in place which is very different from the previous routine. The issue was discussed at a staff meeting held last week and that additional resources have been put in place in the room to engage children.
- Transitions will be highlighted, and the room routines reviewed and displayed in such a way as to ensure that staff allow for transitions to be planned and managed better. All room routines are currently under review. Notice will be made to ensure transitions are a part of the daily room routine, to ensure that staff allow for more planned and better managed transitions.

4. The outdoor play rota must be adhered to on dry days. This has been made clear at staff meetings and when this year's garden routine was compiled. Staff will be reminded that children must be allowed to access the outdoor area as much as possible, on dry days. Ensure management are observing the outdoor play routine is being followed on dry weather days.
5. Management are consulting with all of our staff team to try to ensure that the service can create a better environment for the children. Staff have already suggested additional equipment and toys, and this is a project that we have been working on for some weeks in order to try to get it right. To have a more periodic review of the room routine, the equipment and toys offered.
6. New tables have been ordered for this room that are higher than that which is currently in the room.
7. When the new routine is implemented, it may be that at times staff may decide to take on a different activity based on the room on a particular day. Room leaders will be directed to monitor the rooms routines to ensure that children are engaged and that there is plenty on offer for them to engage with if they wish to.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation and photos in relation to above were reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified in relation to Regulation 19.

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

The registered provider did not ensure an adequate supply of food to meet the needs of all the children was available for lunch. The following was observed;

- Children in the Toddler room and Toddler/ ECCE room indicated their hunger and requested more food having eaten the portion of food provided. Staff advised there was no more of the hot meal available. One child in the Toddler room was observed to be upset when told there was no more available. Records showed that 20 portions of the lunchtime meal are ordered daily however there was 27 children present who received the meal on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that children were provided with a yoghurt and staff mentioned that they are given a yoghurt if there is not enough of the hot meal.
- Appropriate alternatives are not provided for children who cannot eat the hot meals for example one child could not eat the lunch provided due to dietary restrictions and was provided with a sweet waffle and banana. Staff advised alternative hot meals are not provided.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The amount of food ordered for the children's lunch and dinner was immediately increased. Children with dietary restrictions are offered an alternative hot meal i.e. non-fish, non-dairy, non-meat etc. and if we cannot provide it, parents are invited to send in an alternative from home which we will heat. Management will monitor the amount of food being offered to children. They are free to increase or decrease the portions delivered as per the need of the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Invoices for April and May were reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance identified under Regulation 22.

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:

- Internal doors were fitted with high handles to prevent the children leaving the care rooms without the knowledge of staff.
- The staircase was fitted with non-slip flooring.
- A TV in the Toddler room was securely mounted.
- Clearing sprays were stored out of reach.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing was observed to be completely routinely throughout the day before example before meals.
- A minimum of 50cms was provided between cots and low-level beds to prevent the spread of infection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed to physically monitor sleeping children and records of the checks were recorded.
- Cots were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- Mattresses were well fitted.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.
- Emergency exits were clearly marked.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The surface temperature of the radiator in the Toddler/ECCE room was not thermostatically controlled and posed a risk of scalding to the children. The surface temperature was recorded to be 55.4°C at 9:19am. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider, a response which adequately addressed the non-compliance was received on 19th April 2024.
2. Water was not thermostatically controlled in the Toddler / ECCE care room and the sanitary facilities in the Tigers room and posed a risk of scalding to the children. Water temperatures should be controlled at no more than 43°C to prevent the risk of scalding. The water temperatures recorded were;

Room	Time	Water temperature
Toddler/ ECCE room	9:26am	52.8°C
Sanitary facilities in the Tigers room	10:13am	52.1°C

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider a response which adequately addressed the non-compliance was received on 19th April 2024.

3. Garda vetting was available for five staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
4. A table leg was observed to be broken in the Toddler /ECCE room posing a risk of the table collapsing and potentially injuring a child.
5. Phone cables were observed hanging, accessible to the children in both the Tiger room and Toddler ECCE room. This posed a risk of injury to the children.

Infection Control:

6. An adequate supply of plasters was not available in the first aid boxes on the 1st floor. An adequate supply of plasters was not available in either of the first aid boxes in the upstairs care rooms for a child who had a minor scratch. At 10.39 a staff member was observed to check the first aid box for a plaster, and then was observed to cover the surface of the skin with a tissue. At 10:55am another staff member brought a plaster up from downstairs. Plasters are required to keep minor skin abrasions clean, thereby minimising the potential risk of infection.
7. Bins were not maintained appropriately to prevent the spread of infection for example; bin liners were not routinely used on all bins.

Administration of Medication:

8. A healthcare plan which detailed the signs and symptoms and outlined the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency was not available for a child who required emergency medication. This could impede the child receiving the required care in the event of an emergency. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider a response which adequately addressed the non-compliance was received on 19th April 2024.
9. A healthcare plan which was available for a second child who required emergency medication did not clearly detail the symptoms the child may experience or the procedure to be followed in the event of a medical emergency. This could impede the child receiving the required care in the event of an emergency.

10. Anti-febrile medication was not available on the premises on the day of inspection. Staff advised that they do not administer temperature reducing medication; parents will be called to attend the service and administer the medication if required in line with their policy. This practice posed the potential risk of a febrile convulsion in a child with a high temperature and was not in line with the administration of medication policy reviewed on the day of inspection. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider a response which adequately addressed the non-compliance was received on 18th April 2024.

11. A bag containing a prescription medication which was present on the shelf in the Toddler room was labelled with the names of two children. Medication must be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom the medication is prescribed to prevent the medication being administered to a child incorrectly. This posed a risk to the children.

Fire Safety:

12. A gate in the outdoor area which formed part of the emergency evacuation route was locked with a padlock from 9:30am-11:25am. The key for the lock is normally held on a hook inside the emergency exit door however staff were unable to locate the key when asked at 11:18am. The key was returned to the hook at 11:25am. This could impede the safe evacuation of children from the premises in a fire emergency. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider a response which adequately addressed the non-compliance was received on 18th April 2024.

13. Attendance records were not completed in a timely manner in the Tigers room for example the attendance of children who arrived at 9:30am was not recorded until 10:15am. The staff working in the room were observed to be busy settling the children. Attendance records must be recorded contemporaneously to ensure all children are accounted for in case of an emergency fire evacuation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The maximum temperature for the radiators was incorrectly set. This has now been rectified. Ensure that the thermostat on the boiler is kept to the correct temperature limits.
2. The water temperature on the boiler controls, has been readjusted to ensure that the temperature does not exceed 43 degrees. The current settings will not be changed, and labels were put on both controls for water and radiators to stop them being changed again. Ensure that the thermostat on the boiler is kept to the correct temperature limits.
3. All re-vetting has been updated. Management must ensure that re-vetting is completed every 3 years.

4. There was one screw on one of the table legs. This has been tightened. Regular equipment checks must be adhered to, and the repair or replacement of equipment must be conducted in a timely manner.
5. Phone cables are out of possible reach of children. Regular equipment checks must be adhered to.

Infection Control:

6. There are now an adequate number of plasters onsite. Maintain the correct number of plasters.
7. Staff are required to put bin liners in the bins at all times. They have again been instructed to follow this procedure. Management will monitor.

Administration of Medication:

8. A healthcare plan is now in place. We have also amended our policy on the preparation of healthcare plans within the service going forward.
9. Health care plans for all relevant children have been compiled and displayed in the care rooms. The need for a health care plan has been added to the new start checklist so that it can be compiled and displayed as soon as a child starts with us. This will also be followed in the event that a child already in our care develops a need for a health care plan.
10. We have a bottle of anti-febrile medication on site to be used in the event of a child spiking a high temperature. We are also in the process of reviewing our administration of medication policy.
11. The correct child's name is now present on the container holding the medication. Any signs of the previous child's name have been removed. Bags will not be re-use for other children's medication, and if a container is re-used, staff will ensure the previous child's name has been thoroughly removed before re-use.

Fire Safety:

12. Another spare key is now present in the room just in case the current key is lost or misplaced during the course of the day. Keep 2 sets of keys in the room.
13. Staff have been advised that it is important to log a child's arrival times within the shortest timeframe possible, for the reasons highlighted in the report. To highlight the need for speedy recording of arrival times during the staff meeting in June.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation and images relating to above were reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Children were greeted at the door and welcomed into the service by staff.

(3)(a) The service door was secured throughout the day. Visitors to the service were greeted at the door by staff which prevented unauthorised persons entering the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(b) A log of all visitors to the service was not adequately maintained for example the inspectors were not provided with the visitor book on the day of inspection to sign in.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3)(b) All visitors must sign in when arriving at the creche. To reiterate to Management that all visitors must sign the visitor book on entry

Supporting documentation submitted

Image of visitor book reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance identified under Regulation 24.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (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 record of monthly fire drills was available in the service. Records and conversation with staff showed that the last fire drill took place on 4th March 2024.
 - (b) A record detailing the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available on the premises. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced in April 2023 while the smoke alarm was last serviced on 9th October 2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire emergency were available throughout the building in care rooms and communal areas.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure adequate supervision of the children attending the service. The following was observed;

1. Five children were observed running at speed around the Toddler /ECCE care room without adult supervision; the staff member was in the stairwell meeting the needs of a child who had become upset during the transition and was refusing to proceed up the stairs. Adequate supervision is required to prevent injury to the children.

2. Two children aged 2 years old were observed playing at the taps in the Toddler room sanitary area unsupervised for various periods between 10:02am and 10:10am. One child was observed holding her thumb to the tap, spraying water onto her top and the floor surrounding the sink at 10:02am while a second child was observed eating bubbles off their hand at 10:06am. Adequate supervision is required to prevent injury to the children.
3. Children in the Toddler room were observed on a number of occasions to sit and stand on tables and stand on and walk across a row of chairs. This posed a potential risk of injury to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The door at the top of the stairs to the first-floor corridor had been left open. Staff have been reminded not to leave the door open when there are children on the premises. The door must be kept closed at all times.
2. Staff have been made aware and are aware that they need to supervise the children in their care at all times. Adhere to child supervision requirements.
3. Staff will supervise risky play and address as needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 27.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required*

Compliance Information

- (c)
- Large windows provided natural light to the service which was supplemented by artificial light as required.
 - Blinds were available which allowed the light in the care room to be controlled as required.
 - Windows were opened to allow fresh air to circulate.

Non-Compliance Information

- (c) A build-up of dirt was observed on the fan in the Toddler sanitary area. This could prevent the fan working effectively.
- (d) The registered provider did not ensure the service was cleaned, maintained, and repaired as required. The following was observed;
- The flusher was broken on the toilet in the sanitary accommodation opposite the Toddler/ECCE room. Evidence was available to show that staff had reported the issue to management.
 - The unit under the sink in the Toddler /ECCE room has been damaged due to the tap leaking. The unit was observed to be swollen which did not provide an easy to clean surface and a sticky residue was present on the corners.
 - The wall in the Toddler/ECCE room needed repair; holes were present where staff advised a shelf had been removed from the wall.
 - The paint on the skirting in the Toddler room was observed to be peeling and flaking exposing the wood beneath. This prevented adequate cleaning of the surface.
 - The wall in the Wobbler room needed cleaning and repair; a large crack was observed in the wall, sections of plaster and paint were missing exposing screws, and the wall was observed to be unclean with marks present.
 - The window ledge in the Wobbler room needed maintenance and repair, the paint had worn away exposing the wood beneath. This prevented adequate cleaning of the surface.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (c) The fan has been cleaned. Ensure the fan is cleaned in accordance with the cleaning routine.

- (d) All items highlighted in this area of the report have been scheduled for works.

Supporting documentation submitted

A maintenance list was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions proposed by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29.