

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY037
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Name of Service:	Butterflies Community Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Griffith Area Community Centre, Griffith Road, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D11 YE98
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fionnuala Neville
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Dublin North East, 2nd Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Foley
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

Butterflies Community Playgroup childcare service was established in 2002 and operates from Griffith Area Community Hall since 2012.

The service offers sessional care and education to children aged from 2 years to 5 years old. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service can cater for a maximum of 22 children.

The care room has been recently painted and the large bright room is well maintained. The outdoor play area is accessed directly off the care room.

Staffing

There were three staff childcare staff including the registered provider working directly with the children when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out an inspection.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 (1) (a) and (b), 9 (2) (a), (b), (c) and (d) and 9 (4), regulation 11 (1), regulation 22, regulation 25 (1), (2)(a) and (b) and regulation 8. 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.

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

(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.

(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 registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspector arrived and was present for the duration of the inspection.

(2) The files for the 3 staff members working with the children were reviewed.

(a) One staff member had 1 validated written reference from a past employer.

- (b) Two staff members had 2 validated written references from a reputable source.
One staff member had 1 validated written reference from a reputable source.
- (c) Completed Garda vetting disclosure documents were available for the 3 staff members.
- (d) International police vetting was not required.
- (4) All three staff members had documents to show that they held 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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were eighteen children attending the service being supervised directly by three staff members.
All the children were over 2.5 years old and attending a sessional ecce service. A staff roster and staff sign-in records were available for inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

- The service has a healthy eating policy, and the inspector was informed that this had been shared with the parents.
- Parents provide a snack for their child and lunches were stored in the fridge until needed.
- Drinking water was readily available throughout the day.
- Staff were observed to supervise and help the children where needed with hand washing before snack time.
- Staff sat with the children and conversations about the morning activities were heard. Snack time was relaxed.

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)

Three staff members were trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) had their FAR certificates available for inspection. The expiry date on the 3 certificates was 12.6.2025.

(2)(a) and (b)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the care room for use when needed. It was out of reach of the children and easily accessible to staff.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not inform the inspectorate of a change in the operational hours of the service. The service was operating from 9am to 12 noon and not as per the service registered time of 9.15am to 12.15pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A change in circumstances application was submitted on 21/9/23.

Any changes to registration details will be notified.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the completed CIC form was submitted.

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Summary Comment

The non-compliance has been addressed.