

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY043			
Name of Service:	Carousel Day Nursery			
Address of Service:	Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5			
Eircode:	D05 C7X8			
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Marie Doyle			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	08/04/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	32
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 & C. Harte			
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

Carousel Day Nursery is a privately operated service located in an industrial area in North Dublin. The service provides full time, part time and sessional pre-school care and education to children from 0-6 years from 7:30-6:15pm Monday to Friday. The service consists of an office, kitchen and four care rooms used by preschool children; Montessori room, Playgroup room, Pre-montessori room which is also referred to as the indoor garden and the Toddler room. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and also offers a registered school aged care service. There is a large enclosed outdoor area to the front of the service which is divided into three sections; two of which are used by the children.

Staffing

Seventeen staff are employed in the service including the registered provider, a cook, eleven early years practitioners, three staff members who work in the afternoons with the school aged children and an administrator who assists with paperwork on an ad hoc basis.

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.

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 was issued to the provider during the inspection in relation to an identified risk under Regulation 23. A response which addressed the risk was received from the provider on the 9th April 2024. Details of the immediate action notice are provided in Regulation 23.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b) The service had a named person in charge and two named persons who could deputise as needed. A review of the roster showed that the designated person in charge or a named deputy are rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service and staff were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider and a review of the staff roster showed that three new staff who do not work directly with the early years children had commenced employment since the last inspection in October 2023. The files of these staff were reviewed along with Garda vetting disclosures for three staff which our records showed had expired since the previous inspection.

(a)(b) Six written and verified references were available for three staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 month as an adult.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(2) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children on the day of inspection when 43 children were being cared for by nine staff. Ratios were maintained in all care rooms throughout the day. The registered provider and one additional staff member were available to cover in the care rooms as required.

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 and provided, breakfast and dinner and one snack per day to the children. Lunch which is given in the afternoon is provided by the parents. Dinner is supplied by an outside company and was heated onsite by the service cook. On the day of inspection children were observed to eat chicken pasta bake for dinner at 11am and lunch from home at 2pm.
- Drinks in individual labelled beakers were readily available to the children in the Montessori room on a low-level shelf. Drinks were provided to children throughout the service with their meals.
- Nappy changing was done on a set schedule three times per day and as needed to maintain the child's comfort.

Physical and Material environment:

- Child sized tables and chairs were supplied in each room to allow the children to engage in tabletop activities and mealtimes comfortably.
- A variety of toys and equipment were available in each care room.
- Books were maintained in good condition and displayed at a level suitable for the children to choose and access independently.
- Visual daily routines were displayed in the care rooms this ensures predictability and consistency for the children.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff record details about each child's day including meals, nappy changes, and sleep; information is shared with parents at collection time. This promotes a strong staff/parent relationship.
- Staff were observed to use gentle tones when speaking to the children and were observed to use encouraging language to support children.
- The service operates a key worker system in each care room. This fosters a nurturing environment in which children feel confident.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Activities were observed to be primarily adult led in the service and children were observed to spend the majority of the day sitting doing tabletop activities provided by staff with little choice given to the children as to what activities they would like to do. For example, at 12pm in the Montessori room children were observed moving from circle time to a tabletop activity. Staff advised children with green chairs to go to the green table and children with blue chairs to go to the blue table; children were provided with one large jigsaw per table to complete as a group. At 1:40 children were observed sitting at the tables with two different activities while at 3pm another activity was provided at one table while four children played in the corner with the large dolls house. Staff advised children change tables every 20 minutes to ensure they get to do each activity provided. Allowing children freedom to choose their own activities and playmates promotes independence, decision making, negotiations skills and supports interest-based learning.

2. Staff did not encourage a social environment at dinner time in line with the service policy. One child was observed to eat alone at a table with their back to the other children, a staff member did acknowledge the child during the mealtime however staff did not encourage the child to join another table where other children were present. This practice is not in line with the service policy which states that staff will sit with the children to demonstrate good social skills. Children should be encouraged to sit and engage with their peers to support development of language and interaction skills and for development of pro-social behaviours.
3. Adequate supporting equipment was not readily available to support children to engage in role play with the kitchen unit in the Toddler room and toy boxes were not labelled making it difficult to assess the contents. For example, supporting equipment was limited to 1 pan, 2 cups, 1 lid, and 5 plates. These were stored in a box on a shelf at the opposite end of the care room to the kitchen. Toys and equipment should be clearly labelled and grouped thematically to support children to make choices and play independently.
4. Battery operated toys in the Playgroup room were observed to not be working and could not be used as intended. Battery operated toys should be maintained in working order to ensure the toys can be used as intended and to support children's understanding of cause and effect.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Staff have been spoken to and it is agreed that children need more freedom in their play.
2. Staff have been spoken to and will ensure they sit with the children during meals.
3. Toys and equipment have been moved closer to the kitchen unit and boxes have been clearly labelled.
4. Battery operated toys are now working.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs for point 3 have been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 19.

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 service entrance was secure on arrival to the service and staff use an intercom to assess visitors before allowing access. The door is fitted with a thumb lock at adult height. This prevents unauthorised persons entering the building and prevents children leaving the building unsupervised.
- A second door inside the main door is fitted with a high handle to prevent children leaving the service unsupervised.
- Water was thermostatically controlled to prevent injury to the children.
- Toys and equipment available in the care rooms were maintained in good working order and free from hazards.
- Cleaning sprays were stored out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of contaminated items such as tissues.
- Cot mattresses were maintained in good working order free from hazards.
- Cots and sleep mats were spaced a minimum of 50cms apart.
- Bed linen used for low level beds was stored in individual labelled bags when not in use.

Safe Sleep:

- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in rooms where children over 1 year of age were sleeping.
- Children were adequately supervised in all sleep rooms. Staff were observed conducting physical checks of sleeping children every 10 minutes and details of these checks were recorded in a timely manner.
- Mattresses were observed to be the correct size for the cots and footholds were avoided.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were clearly marked and unobstructed on the day of inspection.
- Staff were knowledgeable of the procedure for evacuation in the event of a fire emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A radiator in the Montessori room which was accessible to the children was not thermostatically controlled and posed a risk of injury to the children. The surface temperature of the radiator was recorded as 53°C at 12pm. It is acknowledged that a grid was in place to prevent access however this does not cover the top of the radiator and allows access considering the age and size of the children present. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider during the inspection.
2. A completed child record form was not available for one child who was present in the service on the day of inspection. A completed child record form is required to ensure staff have all necessary information to care for the child. This posed a potential risk to the child as staff did not have sufficient information as to allergies, additional care needs, or authorised persons to collect the child.
3. Signs were not present on the Playgroup room door to indicate a step was present when leaving the care room. This posed a risk of injury to persons attending the service. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in October 2023.
4. A shelving unit in the pre-montessori room was not adequately secured to the wall and presented a tipping risk.
5. Two storage boxes in the garden area were observed to be broken with sharp edges which posed a risk of injury to the children. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in October 2023.

Infection Control:

6. Temperature checks were not in place for a meal which was provided by the parents of a child and heated by care room staff. Staff were observed heating the food in a microwave outside the care room door and giving the bowl to the child on entering the room. Staff advised they did not have a food temperature check record. Staff must ensure food is reheated to the correct temperature and cooled sufficiently before giving to the children to prevent illness or injury to the child.
7. Handwashing was not routinely completed following nappy changing or personal care tasks such as nose wiping. This was not in line with best practice guidelines or the service policy. Adequate handwashing is required to prevent the spread of infection. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in October 2023.
8. Toilet roll was not hygienically dispensed in the toilets used by the children from the pre-montessori room and was observed sitting on top of the toilet roll dispenser. Toilet roll should be hygienically dispensed to prevent cross contamination.

- A roll of paper handtowel was not hygienically dispensed in the nappy changing area and was observed to have wet patches from frequent handling. Paper hand towels should be hygienically dispensed to prevent cross contamination.

Fire Safety:

- An attendance record was not updated for a child who left the service at 10:25am. Attendance records must be completed in a timely manner to ensure they reflect the children present in the service to ensure the safety of the children during a fire emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The radiator cover was replaced with one which covers the entire radiator.
- The parent submitted the required documentation the following day. The registered provider will monitor to ensure it doesn't happen again.
- Safety signs have been put on both sides of the door.
- The shelf has been secured to the wall on both sides to prevent movement.
- The storage boxes have been mended. The registered provider will monitor to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Infection Control:

- Temperature monitoring sheets have been provided in the care room for use when meals are reheated.
- Staff have been reminded of handwashing procedure and signs have been put up in the sanitary areas as a reminder.
- This has been noted and corrected.
- This has been noted and corrected.

Fire Safety:

- This has been addressed with staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs have been reviewed in relation to above.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 23.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a)
 - The building appeared to be of stable structure.
- (b)
 - Doors were secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- (c)
 - Windows were opened throughout the day to allow fresh air to circulate.
 - Large windows allowed natural light to circulate in three care rooms while one care room used artificial lighting only.
- (e)
 - Adequate sanitary and nappy changing facilities were available for the children present.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
 1. A buildup of cobwebs was present on the ceiling of the walkway/ storage area adjacent to the pre-montessori room and in the nappy changing area. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in October 2023.
 2. The flooring in the walkway/storage area adjacent to the pre-montessori room was chipped and worn with a large gap present. This did not provide an adequate cleaning surface. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in October 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The cobwebs have been cleaned and we have noted this needs to be done on a regular basis.
2. The flooring in the walkway have been repaired by a carpenter.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs have been reviewed in relation to above.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 29.