

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY067			
Name of Service:	Edenmore Early Education Centre			
Address of Service:	Tonlegee Road, Donaghmede, Dublin 5			
Eircode:	D05 H74H			
Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Moore			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	15/11/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	29
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

Edenmore Early Education Centre is a not-for-profit service located in a residential area in Dublin 5. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged 2 years to 6 years and operates from 8:30am-3:30pm Monday to Friday during the school term. The service is located in a 2-storey purpose-built building. There are 5 care rooms in the service four of which are located on the ground floor namely the Bright star room, the Rainbow room, the Butterfly room, and the Caterpillar room, which is used for play and stay sessions in the afternoon but was not in use on the day of inspection. There is also a small room which is used for messy play. The Sunshine room is located on the first floor along with three additional rooms; a playroom, a gross motor playroom and a sensory room which are available for use on a daily basis by all children. An outdoor area is located to the rear of the service and is accessible directly from all of the care rooms on the ground floor.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 14 staff to work in the service including 9 early years practitioners, a pedagogical leader, a secretary, 2 cleaners and a cook. The registered provider also works in the service as the manager. Eleven staff were present on the day of inspection 6 of whom were working directly with the children.

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, 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.

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*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. A review of the roster for the week of the inspection showed that the person in charge or the named deputy is scheduled to be on the premises for the duration of the service opening hours.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider and a review of the roster showed there are currently 15 staff employed to work in the service. The files of all staff were reviewed.

(a)(b) Thirty written and verified references were available in relation to 15 staff members currently employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all 15 staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 11 staff 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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example six staff were working directly with 31 children on the morning of inspection. The person in charge was also available to support in rooms as needed.

(2) Ratios were maintained in the care rooms. The following was observed;

- In the Bright star room one adult was caring for 7 children aged 2 years 9 months -3 years old.
- In the Rainbow room two adults were caring for 7 children aged 2 years 8 months -3 years old
- In the Sunshine room two adults were caring for 10 children aged 3-4 years old.
- In the Butterfly room one adult was caring for 7 children aged 4-5 years old.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed;

- Toys and equipment were grouped into defined interest areas including a home corner, reading area, small world, and tabletop areas. The areas contained a range of items which promoted spontaneous creative play. For example, home corners were structured to replicate a kitchen with small tables and chairs and items which supported imaginative play such as real food packaging and containers while the cosy areas were fitted with soft mats, cushions and a range of books offering children a quiet area to rest or engage with early literacy.
- The outdoor area was secure and provided a natural play environment for the children with a variety of toys and equipment to support a range of play experiences and skills. For example, there was a large construction area filled with small stones and tyres, slides, as well as balance beams and wooden steppingstones to support gross motor development and two mud kitchens with supporting equipment and props such as pots and pans, for imaginative play. Large trees provided shaded areas for sunny days.

- Toys and materials in each care room and the outdoor area were accessible to the children at a low level allowing them to access equipment independently while tables and chairs were an appropriate size for the children attending and allowed them to engage in mealtimes and tabletop activities comfortably.

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 attend the door to allow access. Exit is controlled by a key fob meaning a staff member must attend the door to allow people to exit the service. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service without staff knowledge and also prevented children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- Gates in the outdoor area were adequately secured with bolt locks.
- Blind cords were secured out of reach of the children.
- Suitable handrails were provided on the stairs which is used to access the first floor and the staircase was well maintained and free from hazards.
- Flexes were adequately secured to prevent injury to the children.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in the children's and adult sanitary facilities to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Tissue and paper handtowels were hygienically dispensed in the sanitary areas.
- Pedal operated bins were available in the nappy changing area for hygienic disposal of contaminated items.
- Cleaning records were displayed in all areas of the service and completed to date.
- Windows were opened throughout the morning to allow fresh air to circulate in the care rooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Health care plans were available for two children who required emergency medication. Staff were knowledgeable of the steps to be taken in the event of an emergency and the location of the required medication.
- Medicines were kept in their original containers and clearly labelled with the owner's name.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes were clear and unobstructed.
- Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.

Outing:

- An outing to a local green area was conducted in line with the service policy. Evidence of signed consent from the parents/guardians of the children and a risk assessment were reviewed. Staff were observed to bring the required items with them for example a phone containing the contact numbers for the parents/guardians of the children present and a first aid kit.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The sandpit in the outdoor area was not fitted with a suitable cover to prevent animals accessing the area. This posed the potential risk of illness from contaminated sand. It is noted that the service had put measures in place to prevent cats accessing the area however the effectiveness of these measures could not be established.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Cover to be placed on outdoor sandpit. Tarpaulin cover placed over sand pit each night and secured as temporary solution, awaiting a custom-made breathable cover to be manufactured and delivered.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the temporary cover have been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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) A review of the roster and First aid Response (FAR) certificates for three staff showed that the registered provider ensured that a person trained in FAR was available to the children during the opening hours of the service.

(2)(a)(b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes were available in all care rooms. These were stored appropriately out of reach of the children but immediately available to the staff if required.

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.

(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) The registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed the last fire drill took place on the 23rd October 2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available for review in the service. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 28th January 2023 while the smoke alarms were last serviced on 3rd August 2023.

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(4) Notices of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency were displayed throughout the service in care rooms and communal areas.