

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY076
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Name of Service:	An Cosán Early Years - Colaiste Eanna
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Address of Service:	Colaiste Eanna, Kilkieran Road, Cabra, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D07 TW42
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Genockey
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	16/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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

An Cosan Early Years – Colaiste Eanna service is a community-based childcare located in an urban area in Dublin 7. There are two care rooms - the Daisy room and the Ladybird room, an office, a sleep room, sanitary facilities, nappy changing facility and a kitchen within the service. The service offers full day-care childcare to children aged from two years to five years old, from 8.45am to 2pm Monday to Friday.

Staffing

The service employs 5 staff to include the person in charge and four childcare staff.

On the day of inspection, the person in charge with two childcare staff were caring for 11 children aged from 3 to 5 years of age. The registered provider was not present on the day of 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a),
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
Regulation 25 First Aid (1),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,
and Regulation 29 Premises (d).

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

The scope of the inspection included both rooms of the service - the Daisy room and the Ladybird room.

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

(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

(2) During the Inspection, the files of five staff members were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for one staff member from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for three staff members from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available for one staff member from a source other than from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for three staff members from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for five staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of three staff members from three different countries who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) The qualifications of five staff members were reviewed and Evidence available demonstrated that five staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs (DCEDIY).:

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 correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

Daisy room - 1 adult to 3 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Ladybird room - 1 adult to 8 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

with the person in charge present in a supportive role for breaks and nappy changing.

(2) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were three adults working with 11 children.

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 provides meals and snacks at regular intervals. A two-week menu plan was observed by the inspector and on discussion with staff, the children receive snack at 9.45am and lunch at 12.30pm each day. On day of Inspection, the inspector observed morning snack at 10am which was selection of fruit and yogurts and lunch at 12.30pm which was tomato soup with breadsticks with additional servings available and an alternative of toast with butter for children with additional dietary needs. Water was available and accessible should a child require a drink, at mealtimes and throughout the day.

- Mealtimes were held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere in each care room. Staff were observed to support the children during mealtimes.
- Children were provided with appropriate cutlery to support their independence during mealtimes.
- Nappies were observed to be changed when required. Nappy changing practices were respectful and sensitive with pleasant exchanges observed between the staff and children.

Supporting Relationships:

- Children were invited to plan their play by being asked what activity they would like to do, during “plan, do review” time of the daily routine, this promoted independent thinking and decision making for the children.
- Adults in each care room ensured they were at the children’s level during planning and playing by sitting at the table or sitting on the floor with the children, promoting good communication between the adults and children.
- Respectful and positive interactions were observed between adults and children. The atmosphere in the service was relaxed and staff were familiar with the children and could read their cues.

Physical and Material Environment

- The layout of the care rooms promoted independent access to activities, equipment and materials, children’s toys and equipment were displayed on low shelving and accessible for children to choose their own work.
- Age-appropriate play materials in defined areas of interest were available in the care rooms to include:
 - Home corner areas (kitchens with supporting play food and real food packaging, with delph, pots pans and utensils, dolls, dolls clothes and buggies),
 - Construction areas (wooden building blocks, plastic bricks, stickle bricks, magnetic squares, connects, stickies),
 - Art Areas (crayons, colouring pencils, paints, paint brushes, paint sponges, paper, safe cutters for dough and utensils,
 - Small world play (dinosaurs, animals, trains and train tracks, cars and road tracks, trucks, play people, fire station, hospital),
 - Tabletop activities (wooden puzzles, pegs and peg boards, threading with buttons),
 - Imaginary play (dress up costumes),
 - Sensory Play (Sand table and waters tables with supporting equipment),

- Rest areas were available in both care rooms to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of soft corner couches, rugs, and books.
- Two outdoor play areas were available for the children, one larger area with soft artificial surface and one smaller with both a soft artificial surface and an artificial grass surface. The equipment and toys available included mud kitchens with supporting equipment, ride on trikes, see saw, a slide, a climbing frame with a slide, picnic tables with areas for sand and water play with supporting equipment, child size shovels and spades for digging the soil in the larger outdoor area.
- Daily schedule for each care room was on display.
- Artwork completed by the children was displayed on the classroom walls for example children's version of the painting 'Sunflowers' by Van Gogh.
- Displays of pictures of the children who were attending with their families and their birthdays were displayed in the service which supported children's well-being and identity and belonging.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- All cleaning agents and sharp implements were stored safely and out of reach of children.
- Documented attendance records demonstrated the children present in each care room.
- The outdoor area was secured with a surrounding wall which reduced the risk of unauthorised access.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- Flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children.
- The temperature of the care rooms was recorded as follows:

Room	Temperature	Time
Daisy Room	19.8 ° C	at 11.37am
Ladybird Room	19.6 ° C	at 11.47am

- which is within the recommended temperature of 18-22 °C.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, foam soap, and paper towels.
- Pedal bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper in the sanitary facilities.
- Handwashing with the children was completed after outdoor play, after toileting, after nappy changing and before mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children, with a lined pedal bin for the disposal of nappies.
- The care rooms in the service were ventilated by open windows.

Safe sleep:

- During the inspection no children in the service slept but facilities were available to enable children to rest and if required children were facilitated to sleep on low beds when their needs dictated for sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. Review of documentation demonstrated that fire drills were not being completed monthly with the dates noted as follows: last fire drill was completed June 2023. While it is acknowledged the service was closed for July 2023 and August 2023, no fire drill was completed in September 2023. It is recommended that fire drills are completed every month, this promotes fire safety awareness

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

1. Fire Drills are prearranged in the calendar for the 1st week of every month to avoid missing them in the future

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

1. Fire drill documentation submitted demonstrating Fire drills completed 18th October 2023 and 8th November 2023.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliance outlined above was addressed.

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) (1) The service provided evidence that one adult trained in First Aid Response was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each classroom.

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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place in June 2023.
 - (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating they were last serviced 4th September 2023 and a record was available for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises demonstrating they were last serviced 31st August 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non - Compliance Information

(d)

1. In the sanitary facility, two taps were not secure in their attachment to the sink, reducing the independence of children to operate the tap and leading to a risk of injury with a risk of water spilling on to the floor.
2. In the smaller outdoor area, the join between where the artificial grass surface meets the artificial soft ground surface had separated, creating a dip leading to a trip hazard.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

(d)

1. Taps are tightened to prevent movement when in use and weekly checks to ensure taps do not become loose again.
2. Obtain three quotes for resurfacing of outdoor area to submit for permanent improvements.
In the meantime, supervision of children during use of garden to ensure they do not trip on gap will continue and daily checks of surface to monitor gap will be completed by staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic Evidence submitted.
2. Quote for Garden works and outdoor checklist

Summary Comment

The Corrective and preventive action taken and medium-term plan with supervision of the Children in Garden area have been accepted and rectify the non-compliances identified.