

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY092		
Name of Service:	Hill Street Family Resource Centre		
Address of Service:	Hill Street FRC, Dublin 1, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D01 TC90		
Name of Registered Provider:	Elizabeth Manville		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	19/11/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM N/A
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:	E Hosford		
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.		

Description of service

Hill Street Family Resource Centre is an early years' service for families and children living in Dublin's North Inner city. The service provides a sessional service to children aged from 0 to 6 years whose parents / guardians are participating in education courses within the centre or undertaking the preparation for preschool sessions. The service also offers an afternoon programme for children aged between 3-6 years. The facility operates from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday with children attending for no longer than 3 hours.

The service is situated in an urban area on the northside of Dublin city and operates from a first floor care room within a multipurpose resource centre. Outdoor play is facilitated in two public playgrounds within the resource centre grounds to the front and side of the building.

Staffing

The service employs a total of 4 staff including the registered provider and 3 childcare staff. On the day of inspection there were 4 staff working directly with 17 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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4),
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),

- Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child,
- Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and development of Child (1)(a),
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child and
- Regulation 25 First Aid.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child.

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, parents 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) The staff files of four staff employed in the service along were reviewed.

- (a)
 - Two written validated references were available for two staff members from a past employer.
 - One written validated reference was available for the one staff member from a past employer.
- (b)
 - Two written validated references were available for one staff member from a source other than a past employer.
 - One written validated reference was available for the one staff member from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for four staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available from four countries in respect of three staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available four staff members working with the children had evidence to demonstrate 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 4 adults working with 17 children aged between 1 to 6 years of age in the morning.

(3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as there were 4 adults caring for 17 children aged from 1-6 years of age.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) to (i)

On review of the documentation relating to a sample of ten children’s files within the service, the required information and detail was available and complete.

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 children were observed moving freely throughout the care room while accessing the various play materials and toys such as the play kitchen and construction area.
- The children's need for comfort and reassurance was generously provided by staff who sat at the children's level and used soothing and calm tones to encourage the children to engage with the activities and materials available.
- The children were provided with a morning snack of yogurt, fruit and water, which was in keeping with the service healthy eating policy.

Supporting Relationships:

- The service operated from a multipurpose building which offered services and programmes in early education and care, family support and community education. The service applies a flexible approach with parents and maintains an open-door policy. The 'preparation for preschool' sessions with children from 1 to 3 years of age aims to gradually establish a relationship with children by encouraging them to explore and engage with the staff and play materials, while giving parents the opportunity to develop an understanding of the early childhood education programme and become familiar with the available supports and services in their local community.
- At the end of the 'preparation for preschool' session the parents were welcomed back into the care room and were included in the activities and circle time with their child.
- The staff within the care room were observed offering children activities and materials to assist them in settling into the care room while keeping parents informed of their progress.

Physical And Material Environment:

- The care room was spacious with areas available enabling the children to expand their play opportunities and develop their interests. Activities available included a well equipped home area, construction space, tables and chairs for puzzles and games along with a rest area and library.

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 main entrance door to the service was appropriately monitored with a receptionist and secured with an electronic entry phone buzzer system which restricted access to the resource centre and care room. The system in place adequately secured the building to prevent a child from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- Cleaning equipment and sharp implements were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition with cleaning schedules in place to ensure that areas and play materials were cleaned after each group and at the end of the day. The care room and sanitary facility was ventilated with open windows.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and single use cloth towels were available in the sanitary facility used by the children.
- Children were provided with appropriate bowls, spoons and cups when having their snack.

Rest:

- The care room had areas available to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities. The space consisted of soft mats, child size sofas, chairs, and a library.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service maintained the arrival and departure of children to the service. However, on the day of inspection 17 children were present in the care room but only 13 children had been signed in. This reduces the effective evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In response the service has stated that an attendance record book has been purchased and it will be the responsibility of the Child and Family Manager to ensure the attendance record book is filled in correctly each session. In the absence of the Child and Family Manager, the Deputy person in charge will assume this role.

Supporting documentation:

Service attendance record book.

Summary Comment

The service has addressed the non-compliance as identified.

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 person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was available to the children on the day of inspection, with an expiry date of 20 May 2025.

(2)
(a) and (b) A first aid box was suitably equipped, accessible and available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.