

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY117		
Name of Service:	Little Blossoms Crèche		
Address of Service:	163 Tonlegee Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D05 XD61		
Name of Registered Provider:	Olive Glanville		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	22/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM 27

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.
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Description of service

Little Blossoms Creche is a private service providing a sessional, part time and full-time service to children aged from 3 months to 6 years of age and operates from 7:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a converted two storey residential premises on the north side of Dublin city and consists of three care rooms, namely, the Baby room, Wobbler room and the Red room (which is divided into ECCE 1 and ECCE 2). The children from the Red room have daily access to the Garden room to the rear of the service for alternative play opportunities. An enclosed outdoor area was available to the children to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs nine staff members, to include the registered provider, a deputy designated person in charge, an administration manager and six childcare staff. There were seven staff members working in the service on the day of inspection and a staff member employed by an outside organisation to give support to a child.

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.

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

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(3),(8)(c),

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,
Regulation 25 First Aid (1), (2)(a)(b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety measures (1)(a)(b) and
Regulation 31 Notification of incidents (c).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child and Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials. The inspector spent time in the Red room (ECCE 1 and ECCE 2) and the Garden room during the inspection and did not inspect the Baby room and the Wobbler 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 administration manager, 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

The files of nine staff members employed within the service and one staff member employed by an outside organisation were reviewed.

(2)(a) The following references were available from a past employer:

- Two validated written references were available for three members of staff employed.
- One validated written reference was available for four staff employed and the staff member employed by an outside organisation.

(b) The following references were available from a source other than a previous employer:

- Two validated written references were available for two members of staff employed.
- One validated written reference was available for four staff employed and the staff member employed by an outside organisation.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for nine members of staff in the service and the staff member employed by an outside organization.

(d) Three adults working directly with the children had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult and had relevant international police vetting documents available for inspection.

(4) Eight employees employed in 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. The staff member employed by an outside organisation had documentary evidence to demonstrate that they held a qualification relevant to their role.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 7 adults working with 34 children in the morning and 4 adults working with 27 children in the afternoon.

(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained on the day of inspection as outlined below.

- **Baby room-** 1 adult was caring for 2 children aged between 1-2 years.
- **Wobbler room-** 2 adults were caring for 10 children aged 1-3 years.
- **ECCE 1 room-** 2 adults were caring for 13 children aged 3-5 years.
- **ECCE 2 room-** 2 adults to include the adult from an outside organisation were caring for 9 children aged 3-5 years.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present on the premises during the operation of the service.

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 ten children in attendance within the Red room (ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 rooms), the required information and details were available and complete.

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 Red room (ECCE 1 and ECCE 2) was laid out with materials and equipment suitable to the age and development of the children attending. Designated areas of interest included a home area, with a well-stocked play kitchen of cooking utensils such as pots, pans, kettles, toaster, and coffee machine. Dress up area with costumes, hats, dresses and bags, construction space with cars, trucks, puzzles, jigsaws and blocks and an art and craft area supplied with paper, pens, pencils, paint, and sponges. A large rest area of soft matting, cushions and library also included the children’s family and birthday wall. Tables and chairs were available throughout the session to enable the children to sit and complete table activities such as games and colouring.
- The Garden room which was used by the ECCE 1 and ECCE 2 rooms during the inspection had opportunities for the children to play with large trays of sand and dried pasta. Supporting equipment such as sieves, pots, pans, cups, and funnels were available. A large dolls house with furniture and dolls was also available alongside tabletop games of puzzles, connectors, animal shapes, large peg boards, arts, and craft equipment to include paint, brushes, sponges, and paper.
- The outdoor area was available to each care room throughout the day at designated times. The outdoor space was covered in a soft matting surface with space for games and running. Materials available included ride in cars, a climbing frame with slide, a large playhouse, balls, and hoops.

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

(2)(a)(b)

The first aid boxes within the service were suitably equipped, stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and were available to the children at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On review of the staff files and the service roster it was observed that a staff member with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was not available to the children during the inspection. It is acknowledged that six staff members present in the service held paediatric first aid certificates with an expiry date of 19 September 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that the service provider will have a FAR responder/staff member trained on duty during the hours of operation of the service, Monday – Friday 7:30am-5:30pm.

The service provider has contacted by email the service that provides first aid training to book 2 more members of staff for FAR training so in total 3 members of staff will have FAR, to make sure that at least 1 member will be on duty with FAR.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of email request to company regarding training.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance through the corrective and preventive actions proposed. This regulation will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A record was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were undertaken in the service. The last recorded fire drill carried out was 25 October 2023.
 - (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was serviced on the 13 March 2023 and the smoke alarms which were last serviced on the 27 September 2023.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

- (c) an incident that occurs in the service and that results in the service being closed for any length of time;

Compliance Information

- (c) The service notified the inspectorate in writing within three working days of an unexpected closure of a care room for three days in August 2023.