

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY168		
Name of Service:	Pop Up Pre School		
Address of Service:	St. Josephs Junior School, Balcurris Road, Ballymun, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D11 E7WR		
Name of Registered Provider:	Bernie Kelly		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	28/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM No.
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:	M Foley		
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

Pop Up Preschool is an early years' service which operates from a classroom in St Joseph's Junior School which is in a residential area of Ballymun, Dublin 11. The service offers part time and sessional care to children aged from 2 years to 5 years old and operates from 9.15am to 1.15pm Monday to Friday. A large outdoor play area is in the courtyard of the main school and their designated sanitary accommodation is located across from the care room.

Staffing

The service employs five staff members to include the registered provider and four childcare staff. On the day of inspection there were four staff working directly with the children and each staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at QQI Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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)(3),(8)(a),

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

Regulation 22 Food and Drink and

Regulation 25 First Aid (1).

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i). 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 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) the files of four staff members were reviewed and contained the following information.

(a)

The following references were from a past employer.

- Two validated written references for two staff members.
- One validated written reference for two staff members.

(b)

The following references were from a source other than a past employer.

- One validated written reference for two staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for four staff members.

(d)

International police vetting was available for one staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4)

Documentation was available to demonstrate that four staff members held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 was four adults working with 14 children aged between 2-5 years of age.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. The adult child ratios were maintained as follows;

Main care room: Four adults caring for 14 children aged between 2-5 years of age.

(8)(a) On review of the service roster it was confirmed that at least two staff were present on the premises during the operation of the early years' 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 a sample of six children attending the service, the required information and details were available and complete.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

On arrival to the service at 9.15am the children were provided with a breakfast of toast, cereal, milk, and sliced fruit. At 11.40am the service provided children with a choice of filled sandwiches, fruit, yogurt, milk and water. Parents could also provide food from home which was observed to be in keeping with the service healthy eating policy and consisted of sandwiches, yogurts and fruits. Water was available throughout the session if a child was thirsty.

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)
The registered provider ensured that a person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was available to the children during the operation of the service.