

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY184
Name of Service:	Silverspoon Pre-School & Montessori
Address of Service:	41 Charleville Road, North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	D07 TY74
Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Hurley
Service type:	Sessional
Date of Inspection:	13/09/2023
No of pre-school children:	AM 14

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Dublin North. 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

Silverspoon Preschool and Montessori is a private service which operates from two care rooms on the ground floor of a residential home. The sessional service in Dublin 7 provides care and education for children aged between 2 years 8 months to 5 years 6 months and operates from 9am to 12pm Monday to Friday. An enclosed outdoor area was available to the children at the front of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs two staff to include the registered provider and one childcare staff. There were two adults present on the day of inspection working directly with 14 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 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a),

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)(2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b)

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 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) and (b) The registered provider and staff member were on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced and were present during the inspection.
- (2) The files of two staff members were reviewed and the following was available.
- (a) One validated written reference for two staff members was available from a past employer.
- (b) One validated written reference for two staff members was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two staff members.
- (d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence indicated that no staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the two staff members working with the children 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.

(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 two adults caring for 14 children aged between 2.8-5 years of age.

(3) The correct adult to child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times as there were 2 adults caring for 14 children aged between 2.8-5 years of age.

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

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) Children were not facilitated to play outdoors in the enclosed outdoor area to the front of the premises during the session, despite the weather being favourable. It is acknowledged that some of the surface mats in the area were wet and slippery, however, the registered provider discussed the measures usually taken to prevent the children from using the wet area by restricting access with gates and rails. The children were observed getting restless and agitated at 11:25am and would have benefitted from play in the outdoor space.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a) In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that an area in the outdoor area that became slippery when wet has been blocked off and the children can now walk down the path safely to the concrete area when the mats are wet. The children are now going out.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a) Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection.

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 service was resourced with materials laid out in a variety of interest areas including: a home corner with dolls, dolls clothes, play kitchen with additional supporting equipment such as; pots, pans, play food, cash register, dress up clothes, ironing board and dolls highchair, a construction space with floor mats, building table, tools, cars, trucks and blocks, dolls houses with small figures and furniture. A rest area consisting of soft matting, cushions and books was available should a child wish to take a break from activities. All materials, equipment and furniture in the care rooms were appropriate to the age and development of the children.

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 door of the service was locked to prevent the entry of an unauthorised adult or the unsupervised exit of a child.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of children's reach.

Infection Control:

- The service had warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels for the effective cleaning of children's hands.

Administration of Medication:

- Documentation and templates for the administration of medication were available if medication was required for a child.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Two radiators in the service which were accessible to the children were hot to touch, the surface temperature was recorded as 56°C and 57°C at 9:53am. This increased the potential risk of burning a child as the temperature exceeded the recommended temperature of 50°C.
2. To ensure the safe and effective evacuation of all the children in the event of an emergency the children's attendance in the service was not accurately recorded. For example;
 - At 9:30am each child's time of arrival to the service was not recorded in the care room roll book.
 - At 10:05am 15 children were signed into the roll book, however, only 14 children were present in the service, the registered provider was alerted to the discrepancy, and it was resolved.
3. Grapes eaten by two of the children at snack time were not cut up and therefore increased the potential risk of a child choking.

Infection Control:

4. Each child brought their own food for snack at 11am, however perishable food items such as yogurts, cheese and meats were not refrigerated on arrival to the service at 9am. This increased the potential risk of food borne illnesses.

Fire Safety:

5. On review of fire drills completed within the service, no fire drill was carried out in June 2023 prior to the serving closing for the summer. Monthly fire drills are required to ensure the effective evacuation of staff and children in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider has stated that the existing guards have been turned around so they are now higher than the radiator, so the children can no longer touch the tops of the radiators. In the first (upper) playroom a shelf is now where the table was so the children cannot get close to the radiators. In the lower playroom a new guard as well as the original guards block the children from the radiator.
2. In response to the non-compliance the service has stated that now that the children are settled the attendance sheet will be completed as the children come into school, thereby reducing the chance of making a mistake.
3. Following the inspection parents received an email with a letter attached informing them that with immediate effect grapes in lunch boxes must be sliced. We do not give the children grapes if they have not been sliced.

Infection Control:

4. In response the registered provider has stated that all lunches will be stored in the fridge until they are required for lunch, this will take effect immediately.

Fire Safety:

5. In response the service has stated that a fire drill will be carried out before we finish in June next year.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1-3. Documentary and photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

4. Documentary evidence submitted.

Fire Safety:

5. Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection.

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 staff member held a First Aid Responder (FAR) certification training and was available to the children.

(2)(a) A well-equipped first aid box was available to the children attending the service and was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.

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 last recorded fire drill that was completed in the service was held on the 29 May 2023.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main hallway of the service and in the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b) The last recorded service of the smoke alarms in the service was 29 July 2022. Smoke alarms should be serviced on a yearly basis to ensure that they are in working order.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(b) The service has stated that the fire alarm is now serviced.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)(b) Documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection.