

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY205			
Name of Service:	Suantraí Creche			
Address of Service:	62/63 Eccles Street, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	D07 YH5R			
Name of Registered Provider:	Suzanne Dempsey			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	04/04/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	29
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K			
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson			
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

Suantraí Creche is a full day care service located on the north side of Dublin city centre and delivers early childhood care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years of age, to children of parents who work in the Mater Hospital which is located nearby. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme.

The service is delivered from the converted basement floor of two neighbouring Georgian residential buildings. The rooms available to the children include Baby Room 1 (0-1 year), Baby Room 2 (1-2 years), Playgroup (2-3 years) and the ECCE Room (2 years 8 months to 5 years). There are cot rooms and nappy changing facilities located off Baby Rooms 1 and 2, and sanitary facilities located off the Playgroup Room for use of the Playgroup and ECCE children. The service kitchen is located off the ECCE room.

On the day of the inspection, Baby Room 1 was not in operation and two children who were present from that room were in Baby Room 2.

The 'small garden' is a fully sheltered enclosed area located across the back of the premises and there is an enclosed outdoor play area situated on ground level, to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

Suantraí Creche employs a total of 15 staff. There were 11 adults present on the day of the inspection including eight staff who work directly with the children, a cook, a student and the person in charge who works in the service in a supernumerary capacity managing the oversight of the service and provides support where needed across the rooms. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(1),(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1),(2),(9) Staffing Levels
- Regulation 16(1) Records in relation to the Preschool Service
- Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following:

- Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) – Record in relation to Preschool children

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

(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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was clearly displayed throughout the premises.

(2) A total of 17 files were reviewed, 15 staff files and the files of two students.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a)(b) Thirty-four validated written references were available from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer for the 17 full files reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 17 files reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that six adults had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults and international police vetting from that state was available for inspection.

(4) The 14 staff who may provide direct care to the 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.

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.

(9) In assessing compliance with the adult: child ratios specified in Schedule 6, unpaid workers and, where applicable, the person referred to in Regulation 24(2), shall not be taken into account.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their basic care needs. There were nine staff available to the 30 children.

(4) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Eight staff were allocated to work directly with the 30 children who were present on the morning of the inspection with a breakdown as follows:

- Baby Room 2 - 3 adults to 9 children aged between 11 months-2 years old.
- Playgroup - 3 adults to 8 children aged between 2-3 years old.
- ECCE room - 2 adults to 13 children aged between 2 years 8 months -5 years old.

(9) A student who was present on the day of the inspection was not included in the adult: child ratios of the room.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
- (e) the facilities available;
- (f) the opening hours and fees;
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee were maintained within the staff files and in the parents handbook and displayed in the rooms.

(b) The service Tusla certificate was displayed within the service and detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide care to.

(c) (d) (e) (f) The parent's handbook detailed the statement of purpose and function, outlined the adult: child ratios, the type of care or programme provided and the facilities available; and the opening hours and fees of the service.

(g) The registered provider maintained all of the policies required in accordance with Regulation 10.

(h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of the children on a daily basis were maintained.

(i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.

(j) Following a review of a sample of ten records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for the administration of medication.

(k) Following a review of a sample of ten records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for accident and incidents.

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 ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture in the rooms was observed to be adequate for the number of children in the rooms, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children in the rooms, and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home, art and crafts, construction, sensory, and library areas. Themed areas of interest facilitate children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, which facilitated a range of play experiences including creative, imaginative and language play and promoted exploration and curiosity.
- Products of the children’s art work were displayed throughout the rooms, and children had labelled coats hooks and cubbies for their belongings.
- The outdoor environment had a range of equipment, furniture and play structures to facilitate gross motor play and development. There was an adequate supply of suitable outdoor clothing to facilitate the children’s access to outdoor play in inclement weather.

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

The following measures were observed to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children:

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was managed by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. The electronic door release switch was up high out of reach of children.
- There was an up-to-date daily risk assessment displayed in the care rooms.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of the inspection.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed.
- Blinds cords and cables were observed to be secured.

Infection Control:

- The flooring and surfaces throughout the premises were observed to be suitable surfaces for effective cleaning and the premises were in a clean and hygienic condition with documented up to date cleaning records available and displayed in the premises.
- Liquid soap and single use hand towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Staff were observed supporting children to hand wash before and after mealtimes.
- There were appropriate foot pedal operated waste disposal bins available in sanitary accommodation and care rooms throughout the premises.
- There was a supply of gloves and aprons available in the sanitary accommodation to support hygienic nappy changing practice and staff were observed to use them during nappy changes.

Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication forms available in the service clearly documented the administration of any medication.

Safe Sleep:

- A log was maintained where the temperature of the room and the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children was checked every 10 minutes.
- The temperature of the rooms while a child under the age of 1 year slept was recorded at 19.4°C at 2.00pm and which was within the ambient temperature range of 16-20 °C recommended for safe sleep for children under one year old.

Fire Safety:

- There were evacuation routes clearly displayed in each of the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The water temperature in the wash hand basin used by the staff and children in the sanitary accommodation off Baby Room 2 room exceeded the recommended temperature of 43°C. A temperature of 47.3°C was recorded by the inspector at 10.42am. This posed a potential scald risk to the children. This was identified as a non-compliance on the previous two inspections held on the 1 December 2022 and 16 August 2023 and actions put in place failed to prevent a recurrence.
It is acknowledged that the person in charge adjusted the thermostat which reduced the water temperature to 32.5°C at 11.10am.
2. An unravelled hose accessible to children was observed near the top of the steps in the outdoor play area. This posed a trip and injury risk. This was identified as a non-compliance on the previous inspection held on the 16 August 2023 and actions put in place failed to prevent a recurrence.

Infection Control:

3. Two play mats in Baby Room 2 were observed to be torn with the foam exposed at the corners. This left the surface ineffective for cleaning and increased the potential risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. **Corrective action:** The service will continue to keep the thermostat set at a lower set point of 33/34 degrees rather than trying to get it hotter as it too difficult to regulate.
Staff will continue with the managers check on this a few times daily to ensure it stays at this consistent level and ensure the press with the thermostat is still not in use frequently.

Preventive action: The service commit to continue with the manager’s check on this a few times daily to ensure it stays at this consistent level and ensure the press with the thermostat is still not in use frequently. A sticker has been added to set point for temperature on the thermostat.

- Corrective action:** The service corrected the hose instantly on the day of inspection and continue to monitor it this way. This is on the managers morning check and staff have been reminded to ensure when they are doing their visual garden check that the hose is not unravelled.

Preventive action: the service has requested a reel/ box to be fitted to the wall to house the hose and this is on order 16/04/2024. This should be fitted within the next month 16/05/2024 at the latest but until then will be closely monitored by staff and management.

Infection Control:

- Corrective action:** The two mats were thrown out immediately and replaced with another mat which had been in storage and an order was placed for a new mat.

Preventive action: New mat ordered.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence of current water temperatures.
- Photographic evidence of hose suitably stored. Evidence of request for new fitting for hose.

Infection Control:

- Evidence of order for new mat.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed and will be reviewed on the next 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) A review of the staff roster showed that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.