

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY217
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Name of Service:	The Playhouse Preschool
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Address of Service:	Santry Community Resource Centre, Domville Court, Santry, Dublin 9, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D09 E338
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Name of Registered Providers:	Michelle Farrelly, Carol Black
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>35</td> <td>PM</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	AM	35	PM	
AM	35	PM			

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:	Á Dunne
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

The Playhouse Preschool was established in 2002 and moved to Santry Resource Centre in 2007. The care rooms are on the ground floor of Santry Community Resource Centre. The service is in a residential area of Santry and offers sessional childcare to children from 2 years to 5 years old. There are two care rooms, reception area and a kitchen area. Both rooms have separate entrance and exit doors. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. Opening hours are from 9am to 12.30pm, Mon to Thursday for 38 weeks of the year. The outdoor area consists of a covered area directly off room 2 and an artificial grass area at the back of the premises.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were nine adults present. Eight adults were working directly with the children to include the two registered providers, four childcare practitioners, two adults employed by an external organisation to provide support to children and one cleaner.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations: 9 (2)(a), (b), (c), (d), (4), 11- (1), (2), (8)(a), 16 (i) 21, 23, 25 (1), (2), 26

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

The scope of the inspection included both room 1 and room 2 of the early years' service.

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, 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) During the Inspection, the files of 12 adults were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for one adult from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for three adults from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available for four adults from a source other than a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for two adults from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for twelve adults.

(d) International police vetting was available in respect of three staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Six staff members who worked directly with 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) Two written and validated references for one adult from a past employer were not available.

One written and validated reference for two adults from a past employer were not available.

One written reference for two adults from a past employer were not validated.

(b) Two written references for one adult from a source other than a past employer were not validated.

One written reference for one adult from a source other than a past employer was not validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff members now have two written and validated references on file. When staff are from external contractors, the service will make sure to have a full staff file with copies of their validated references included.

The registered providers will check regularly that all staff members have validated references in their staff file.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 9, the non-compliances as outlined above have been addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were 6 adults working with 35 children present on the morning of the inspection and two adults employed by an external organisation to provide support to children.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times. They were maintained as follows:
 - Room 1 - 3 adults to 18 children aged between 2 to 4 years.
 - Room 2 - 3 adults to 17 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

- (1) (i) Staff roster was available which detailed the staff members schedule on a daily basis.

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 had a wide variety of equipment for both indoor and outdoor activities to reflect the children’s interests and their emergent curriculum Both care rooms in the service and the outdoor area were designed with consideration of the age and stage of development of each child taken.
- Children were observed to take part in free play on the day of inspection in the outdoor area whereby the layout of outdoor area facilitated choices, for example sensory play with sand and supporting equipment, art and crafts of creating masks and colouring at low tables and chairs, gross motor play of ride in cars, scooters, slides, seesaws, balance bikes, large climbing frame.
- Story time was observed in both care rooms during and after lunch break between 11am and 11.30am.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, to include: arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children on art trolleys, home areas with play kitchens with supporting equipment and play food; range of jigsaws; range of construction toys to include building blocks, plastic building bricks, stickle bricks, building straws stickies; sorting and stacking toys; Jigsaws and wooden puzzles, toys for transporting such as cars and a garage and small world play toys of dolls houses with furniture and small characters.
- A range of books were available in the room and they were in good condition.
- Each care room had a cosy area of soft floor mats and books for rest and relaxation.
- There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate. There were adult stools to support staff members in sitting and interacting with 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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service, the entrance was secure in order to prevent unsupervised entrance and exit from the service building.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Lunches were brought to school by the children and stored in individual boxes or bags in a fridge.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available in the sanitary facility.
- Bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper in the sanitary facility.
- Children were observed be supported and assisted to maintain hand hygiene at relevant times, for example; washing hands after using the bathroom, after outdoor play and before lunch.
- The service was observed to be clean with cleaning schedules available and completed by staff.

Administration of Medication:

- Care plans were available for children requiring medication, and staff were aware of the practices around this.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. During the inspection, it was observed that two side gates in the outdoor area were unlocked and could permit unauthorised access to the outdoor area used by the children, leading to a risk of safety.
2. The daily attendance of children in each care room was not accurately reflected in the service attendance records. For example:
 - In Room 1, one child that arrived at the service at 9.47am was not recorded in the attendance book by 10.55am and when highlighted by the inspector, the staff member filled an incorrect arrival time of 9.30am.
 - In Room 2, at 11.26 am, 18 children were in attendance in the room any only 15 children were recorded in the attendance book including the attendance for one child who was attending for one day of introduction was not recorded in the attendance book at all.
3. While it acknowledged that the Playhouse in the outdoor play area was cordoned off, it is in poor condition and unusable as the slide was missing, if in use would be a safety risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. These side gates are also fire exits; a staff member is always standing by the gates. Advice sought from a lock smith and a quote is being drawn up for suitable locks for the gates. It is hoped that the locks will be on the gates by September 2023.
2. A staff meeting was held and the importance of signing children in and out in the attendance book at the correct time was explained. Children visiting on introduction days will be signed in at the bottom of the Attendance book. The room leader will make sure that all children will be signed in and out at the correct time.
3. The slide that was broken on the playhouse has been fully repaired and the playhouse is in use again. Regular checks of equipment will be completed and if required equipment will be removed until it is replaced or repaired.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. An estimate from a company regarding work to be completed to address non-compliance number 1 was submitted to the inspectorate on the 07/09/2023.
- 2 & 3. Photographic Evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive action taken has addressed the regulatory requirements. This regulation will be reviewed at 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) The service provided evidence that two adults trained as First Aid Responders were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(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.

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) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 7th of June 2023.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which was last serviced on the 5th of April 2023.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms

Non-Compliance Information

(b) No record was available for the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The fire certificate is now available and on display in the reception area of the service demonstrating it was serviced January 2023. The registered providers will ensure that the Fire certificate is in date and on display at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of Fire Equipment Maintenance Certificate submitted.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance as outlined above, under Regulation 26 has been addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured an up-to-date insurance certificate was available and was suitable for the number of children and type of session provided. The expiry date of the insurance was 27th March 2024.