

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY246
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Fatima Groups United Children's Day Care Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	78 Reuben Street, Rialto, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D08 K681
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Joe Donohoe
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	12/02/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	43	PM	33
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Hosford and E Griffin
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

<b>TÚSLA</b> An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	<b>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</b>  QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015DY246	1 of 9
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Fatima Groups United Children's Day Care Centre is a community service located in an urban area on the south side of Dublin city. The service provides sessional, part time and full day care services to children aged from 1 to 5 years, from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The service offers two sessions for children from 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. The purpose-built service occupies the ground floor of a residential apartment complex and has six care rooms, namely, the Waddler room, Toddler room, Messy room, Construction room, Tabletop room and Toddler Full Day Care room. Each care room had access to the main outdoor area to the rear of the service. On the day of inspection all the care rooms were operating in the morning and five care rooms were in operation in the afternoon.

### Staffing

The service employs a total of 21 staff to include the registered provider, deputy designated person in charge, an administrator, 2 cooks, a cleaner, a parent support worker and 14 childcare staff, of whom 2 are employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM).

The registered provider does not work within the service but was present during the inspection and at the feedback meeting.

On the day of inspection there were 9 staff members and one student working directly with 43 children in the morning and 8 staff members and one student working directly with 33 children in the afternoon.

### 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 (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4), (6A)

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

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child and

Regulation 28 Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

21 Equipment and Materials and 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and regulation 11 Staffing Levels were assessed across all the rooms.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy 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.*

*(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."*

### Compliance Information

(1) (a)(c) The service had a deputy designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required throughout the inspection.

(b) The deputy designated person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived at the service at 9:47am and was present for the duration of the inspection.

The files of one new staff member employed since the last inspection and a student who was present in the service were reviewed along with garda vetting disclosures for all staff working in the service.

(2) (a) Two written references were available for one new member of staff employed.

(b) Two written references from a source other than a past employer were available for the student.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 21 staff members and the student.

(d) International police vetting was available from one country in respect of one new staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) One new staff member employed within the service had evidence to confirm they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6A) Two staff members were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) Two written references from a past employer did not have evidence to demonstrate that they were validated.

(b) Two written references for the student from a source other than a past employer did not have evidence to demonstrate that they were validated.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) and (b)

In response to the non-compliance the service responded that they have verified the references for the staff member and student and that management will continue to monitor and review the above.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a) and (b)

Evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

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

### 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 9 adults working with 43 children in the morning and 8 adults working with 33 children in the afternoon.

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

- **Waddler room-** 2 adults were caring for 6 children aged 1-2 years in the morning and 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Toddler room-** 2 adults were caring for 10 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 8 children in the afternoon.
- **Messy room** - 1 adult was caring for 4 children aged 3-4 years in the morning and the room was closed in the afternoon.
- **Construction room-** 1 adult was caring for 5 children aged 3-5 years in the morning and 5 children in the afternoon.
- **Tabletop room** 2 adults were caring for 13 children aged 3-4 years in the morning and 12 children in the afternoon.
- **Toddler Full Day Care room** 1 adult and the student were caring for 5 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 3 children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) Documentation available demonstrated that two adults were present on the premises during the operation of the early years' service.

### 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 care rooms were spacious and well laid out with child-sized tables and chairs, low level shelving and a large range of age-appropriate play equipment and materials.
- The Toddler Full Day Care room was equipped with play kitchens stocked with pots, pans, and dishes, soft toys, construction area with blocks, bricks, and train sets, jigsaws, and games. Low-level tables and chairs were provided for the children for activities and mealtimes.
- The three interjoining care rooms Messy room, Construction room and Tabletop room were designed with the age and stage of development of the children taken into consideration. Throughout the morning the children had the freedom to explore each care room to participate in various activities while supported by staff members. Areas of interest available to the children included a sand and water play area and arts and crafts area, both resourced with a range of associated equipment and natural opened materials to extend their play experience. The tabletop area had activities such as jigsaws, shapes, sorting, threading, and stacking equipment. A home corner and dress up area with a range of accessories, a construction area and library area were also available to the children.
- Each care room had a rest area which consisted of soft matting, cushions, and books. Low sleep beds were provided for children who required sleep during the day.
- Each care room and the main hallways of the service were decorated with the children's artwork to reflect the current activities undertaken by the children and the present seasons and celebrations.
- The outdoor area was surfaced with soft matting and grass. The children had access to a climbing frame with slides, balls, and hula hoops. A sheltered area gave the children the opportunity to play with a sand tray which was resourced with spades, buckets, and cups.

### 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:

- External doors were monitored by reception staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. Access to the early years service was restricted to authorised persons by means of a controlled access system and this system also prevented children from leaving the area unsupervised. The outdoor areas were secured.
- All hazardous equipment and cleaning materials were stored out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins were available at the wash hand basins used by the staff and children.
- Staff were observed carrying out nappy changing as per the service policy and best practice guidelines.
- The service was well maintained with cleaning schedules present in the care rooms and sanitary facilities.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Children over the age of two years that required sleep were facilitated on low stackable beds with their individual sheets and blankets. Staff maintained a record of the children that slept, to include their colour, breathing and position every 10 minutes. The temperature of the care room was also recorded to ensure that it was maintained within the recommended range of 18-22 °C.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The record of attendance in one care room did not accurately reflect the children in the room, this reduced the effective evacuation of children in the event of an emergency. For example.
  - At 10.12am it was observed by the inspector that there were 13 children present in the Tabletop room, however only 9 children were recorded as being in attendance.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. In response the service has stated that following the feedback meeting on the day of the inspection, all staff were spoken to about the importance of keeping accurate attendance records at all times throughout the day. Alongside this, the Deputy Managers are doing daily checks in each of the rooms. Management will continue to monitor and review the above.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. No evidence submitted.

## Summary Comment

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

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

Documentation was available to demonstrate that the service had insurance to cover 65 children attending the service on a full day care basis from 24/08/2023 to 27/03/2024.