

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY246		
Name of Service:	Fatima Groups United Children's Day Care Centre		
Address of Service:	78 Reuben Street, Rialto, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D08 K681		
Name of Registered Provider:	Joe Donohoe		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time		
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM 30
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 and E Hosford		
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable Not applicable.

Description of service

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 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.

Staffing

The service employs 16 staff to include the person in charge, deputy person in charge, two receptionists, one administrator, two cooks and nine childcare staff.

On the day of inspection there were ten childcare staff including the deputy person in charge caring for 49 children aged from 1 to 5 years of age in the morning session, and seven childcare staff caring for 30 children aged from 1 to 5 years of age in the afternoon session.

The registered provider and the person in charge were not present on the day of inspection.

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 the regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b)(c), (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 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)

and Regulation 29 Premises (c).

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

And 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

The scope of the inspection included the Waddler room, Toddler room, Full Day Care Toddler room and it did not include Messy room, Tabletop room or Construction room.

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 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

(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 nineteen staff members were reviewed.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for five staff members from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for nine staff members from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated references were available for five staff members from a source other than from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for nine staff members from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for nineteen staff members.

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

(4) The qualifications of fifteen staff members were reviewed:

Evidence available demonstrated that fifteen 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 (DCEDIY).

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) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

During the morning:

Waddler room – 2 adults to 5 children aged between 1 to 2 years.

Toddler room – 2 adults to 9 children aged between 1 year 6 months to 2 years 6 months.

Messy room - 2 adults to 9 children aged between 3 to 4 years.

Tabletop Room - 2 adults to 15 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Construction room - 1 adult to 6 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Full Day Care Toddler room – 1 adult to 5 children aged between 3 to 4 years.

During the afternoon:

Waddler room – 2 adults to 1 child aged between 1 to 2 years.

Toddler room – 1 adult to 4 children aged between 1 year 6 months to 2 years 6 months.

Messy room – Closed.

Tabletop Room - 2 adults to 15 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Construction room - 1 adult to 6 children aged between 3 to 5 years.

Full Day Care Toddler room – 1 adult to 4 children aged between 3 to 4 years.

(2) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows :

On the day of Inspection, there were 10 adults working with 49 children in the morning, and 7 adults working with 30 children in the afternoon.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a) Basic Needs:

- The service provides meals and snacks at regular intervals. A three-week menu plan was observed by the inspectors and on discussion with staff, the children receive breakfast at 9.30am, dinner at 12pm, snack at 2pm and tea at 4pm each day. On day of Inspection, the inspector observed dinner at 12pm which was mashed potatoes, fishfingers, vegetables and gravy with additional servings available for the children. Water and milk were available and accessible should a child require a drink, at mealtimes and throughout the day.
- Mealtimes were held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere in each care room. Staff were observed to support the children during mealtimes.
- Children were provided with appropriate cutlery to support their independence during mealtimes.
- Nappies were observed to be changed when required, and at set times. Nappy changing practices were respectful and sensitive with pleasant exchanges observed between the staff and children. Nappy changing was completed in accordance with the Nappy Changing Policy of the service.

Supporting Relationships:

- Respectful and positive interactions were observed between adults and children. The atmosphere in the service was relaxed and staff were familiar with the children and could read their cues.

Physical and Material Environment

- The layout of the care rooms promoted independent access to activities, equipment and materials, children's toys and equipment were displayed on low shelving and accessible for children to choose their own work.
- Age-appropriate play materials in defined areas of interest were available in the care rooms to include:
 - Home corner areas (kitchens with supporting play food and utensils, dolls, prams and buggies),
 - Construction areas (building blocks, plastic bricks, stickle bricks, shape sorters, work bench with tools),

- Small world play (dinosaurs, animals, trains and train tracks, trucks, cars, dolls house and furniture, play people),
 - Tabletop activities (wooden puzzles and jigsaws, transferring exercises, art and crafts supporting equipment for example paint sponges and paper),
 - Imaginary play (dress up costumes, doctor sets, vet sets,)
 - Sensory Play (Sand table, rice table with supporting equipment),
 - Rest areas were available in the care rooms to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of play tents, soft matting, cushions, and books.
- Curriculum and daily schedule for each care room was on display.

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:

- Access to the service via the front door is monitored by reception staff employed by the service. A secure door which operates on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of inspection.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- Flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children.
- Bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper in the sanitary facilities.
- The care rooms in the service were ventilated by open windows.

Safe Sleep:

- Children under two years were facilitated to sleep in cots when their needs dictated for sleep in a cot room off the Waddler room.
- Children were provided with cellular blankets for sleep.
- 10-minute sleep checks were completed for each child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The record of attendance for each 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 11.19am it was observed by the inspector that there were five children present in the full day care Toddler room, however only three were recorded as being in attendance.
 - At 11.35am, it was observed by the inspector that there were five children present in the Construction room, however six children were marked in as present. One child who left at 11am was not marked out at that time.
2. An unlocked press in the Toddler room contained an aerosol and one spray bottle which were accessible to children, this posed a risk of injury.

Infection Control:

3. Three hand touch Nappy disposal systems were in use within the three nappy changing areas in the service, this equipment is at variance with the recommendations issued by the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The records of attendance have been rectified for all children in/out of attendance past and present. Review and reminders given by management to all staff re in the importance and procedures to be followed when filling out attendance records.
2. This press is now used to store spare nappies/wipes. A basket has been installed that can be accessed by adults only. A new sign has been placed beside it with clear instructions. This press was not specifically to be used for cleaning products which was an error made by staff. Management has ensured that all nappy changing rooms are using the assigned areas of storage for cleaning products. Staff check the rooms daily and sign off on checklist.

Infection Control:

3. All nappy rooms had access to pedal bins, however, an additional nappy disposable bin was still accessible, in addition all non-pedal nappy bins have been removed from all nappy changing rooms in the service. There will be pedal bins only used in the service. All staff have been updated for the reasons following health and safety guidelines.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic Evidence Submitted.
2. Photographic Evidence Submitted.

Infection Control:

3. Photographic Evidence Submitted.

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliances outlined above have been addressed.

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 five adults trained in First Aid Responder 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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 25th of August 2023.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were both last serviced on the 11th of March 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.