

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY264

Name of Service: Realtoga Preschool & Afterschool

Address of Service: Leahy's Terrace,
Sandymount,
Dublin 4.

Email Address: info@realtoga.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Siona Mac Cinna

Type of Service Registered: Part-Time

Date of Inspection: 0 7 0 3 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 32

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: 1st floor Trinity Building,
IDA Business Park,
Southern Cross Road,
Bray,
Co. Wicklow.

Inspection undertaken by: S. Quigley
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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 Non-Applicable



Description of Service	Realtoga Preschool and Afterschool provides an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme on a part-time and sessional basis to children aged 2-6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The service operates from 8:45am to 13:15pm Monday to Friday.
Premises	The service is located in a residential area of Sandymount, South County Dublin. The premises is a standalone, purpose-built building located on the grounds of a local primary school. The service consists of two large care rooms and an outdoor play area is available to the front of the premises which the service shared with the Junior classes of the adjacent primary school.
Staffing	The service currently employs eight staff members, six of whom work directly with the preschool children. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of “paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)” for “paragraphs (5) and (6)”, and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): “
- (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:

- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of three staff members working in the service who had been employed subsequent to the last date of inspection. The following vetting documents and records which were furnished to the inspector in respect of the three staff members met regulatory requirements:
- (a)(b) The registered provider demonstrated they had adequately obtained and verified references for all new recruits.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau for the three adults working in the service.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (d) International police vetting was available for two of the staff members who had resided outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (4) Three of the staff members held a relevant major award in early childhood care and education.
- (6)(a) Not applicable.
- (b) One of the staff members was in possession of a letter from the Minister.
- (6)(A) Not applicable as one adult employed pursuant to the scheme known as the access and inclusion model held a relevant qualification.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the preschool children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty-two pre-school children attending the service being supervised by six adults during the inspection.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and lunches are provided each day by the parents of the children in attendance. Staff sat and chatted with the children during the lunch time periods and allowed plenty of time for the children to relax and enjoy their lunch while chatting with each other.

The children were encouraged to be independent in assisting in tasks throughout the morning including tidying up activities and setting the tables for mealtime with plates and cups. There was a rest area available in each room to enable the children to take time away from the group as required and children were observed using this area to relax and look at books.

The routine in the service was observed to be child led. The children were observed accessing the different materials in the room throughout the morning, engaged in various forms of play such as playdough, water play and role play. The adults were observed to use soft tones and gentle, positive language with the children which reflected in the calm atmosphere of the service.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Each classroom provided clearly defined areas of interest including home corners, construction areas, drawing shelves and sand play stations. Each room was adequately resourced and set up with a variety of materials and equipment which were all laid out on low level shelving units facilitating the children's choice in play. Pieces of the children's artwork were displayed around the care rooms alongside photographs of the children during activities in the service. The children had access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the premises which they share with the junior classes of the adjacent primary school.

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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

GENERAL SAFETY:

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. Hand sanitisers, hazardous materials and medications were stored safely out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

INFECTION CONTROL:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Staff confirmed during discussions that exclusion periods following common illnesses were implemented in line with the policy.

Cleaning schedules were in place and maintained in the care rooms to ensure they were regularly cleaned including the frequent cleaning of high-contact surfaces. Liquid soap and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff and children were observed regularly handwashing and sanitising at regular intervals.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency.

FIRE SAFETY:

Documentation reviewed evidenced the service consistently carry out fire drills each month as required to ensure that evacuation procedures are practiced routinely by adults and children in the service. The fire escape exits remained accessible and free from obstruction.

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 person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 7th February 2022.

(b) There was record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in October 2021 and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the January 2022.

(4)

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.