

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY278		
Name of Service:	Cranford Creche		
Address of Service:	151 Rathgar Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D06 ND61		
Name of Registered Provider:	Emmett Rice		
Service type:	Full Day, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	14/03/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM 47
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:	C. Harte and E. Griffin		
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

Cranford Creche and Montessori is a privately owned service offering full time care and education to children aged from 0 to 6 years and operates from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and caters for a maximum of 53 children. The service is based in a converted residential dwelling in a residential area on the south side of Dublin city. There are five care rooms over three floors and outdoor play areas at the front and rear of the premises. The basement consists of Nursery 1 and Nursery 2 with an adjacent cot room. On the first floor is the Toddler room and the Yellow Pre Montessori room. On the third floor Top House Montessori class use two rooms which children move between. The building also has a kitchen, staff room and an office.

Staffing

The registered provider currently employs thirteen staff including the person in charge and chef who is childcare qualified and covers in rooms when needed. The registered provider does not work directly 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, safety, premises, and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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-

- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

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.

(2) The file of 1 new staff member employed since the last inception in May 2023 was reviewed along with garda vetting for all 13 staff members.

(b) Two written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 13 staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) The file reviewed demonstrated that the staff member working 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.

(7) A review of 13 staff files demonstrated the completion of necessary training in service policies and procedures.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) A review of available documents demonstrated that the procedure specified in paragraph (2)(c) consideration of garda vetting disclosure was not carried out prior to the employment of 1 staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

It was acknowledged that the timeframe between the contract and Garda vetting didn't match with dates.

Preventive Action

Management will ensure that Garda vetting is carried out and completed before staff commence employment.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider ensured there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Room	Age group	Time	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
Yellow Montessori	2 - 4 years	10:26am	10	2	2
		3:00pm	10	2	2
Toddler Room	2-3 years	10:28am	8	2	2
		3:02pm	10	2	2
Nursery 1	1 year – 19 months	10:00am	8	2	2
		3:04pm	7	2	2
Nursery 2	2-3 years	10:32am	5	2	1
		3:07pm	5	1	1
Top House Montessori	3-5 years	10:36am	15	2	2
		3:07pm	15	2	2

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 furniture and equipment were observed to be well maintained, easy to clean and suitable for the age and stage of development for the children in the care rooms.
- The resources were grouped in defined areas facilitating focused play experiences.
- There was a variety of equipment and resources available to children suitable to their ages which promoted a variety of play and learning opportunities. They included books aiding early literacy, sensory toys, shapes for sorting, imaginative corners with a selection of props including real food, menus and recipes and equipment for mark making encouraging creativity.

- Equipment in the Top House Montessori room was labelled with images of children using the resources and the daily routine displayed also included images of the children. This supported ownership of the environment for the children and promoted independence.
- The two outdoor spaces included a range of resources for fundamental gross motor movements including tunnels, slides, ride on toys, seesaws and climbing equipment.

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 arrival to the service the entrance was secured which prevented children leaving the service unsupervised and prevented unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- Blind cords were adequately secured out of reach of the children.
- Radiator covers were in place to prevent injury to the children.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Soothers were observed stored in individual containers reducing the risk of cross contamination.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water and soap were available throughout the service to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Children were supported to wash their hands before mealtimes.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the service for disposal of contaminated items.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored safely out of reach of the children.

Safe Sleep:

- An ambient temperature between 18-22°C was maintained in rooms where children over 1 year were sleeping.
- Staff completed ten-minute physical checks on children and record was maintained of their colour, sleeping position and breathing.

Fire Safety:

- Safety notices were clearly displayed in both outdoor areas as collection points for evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for thirteen staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'. It is acknowledged that a renewal of Garda Vetting disclosure was applied for on the day of inspection.
2. There was a pest control box with the words 'do not touch' accessible to the children in the children's sanitary area on the middle floor. This posed a risk of poisoning or skin irritation to the children. It is acknowledged the box was removed when brought to the attention of the person in charge by the inspector.

Infection Control:

3. Two cot mattresses in nursery room 1 and two cot mattresses in nursery room 2 were not waterproof and did not have a waterproof cover on. This prevented effective cleaning and posed an infection control risk.

Fire Safety:

4. Child and staff attendance records were not maintained correctly. These attendance books are used during fire drills to ensure child and adult safety. The following was observed:
 - Ten children were present in the Toddler room however only nine children had been signed in when the roll book was reviewed at 12:21pm.
 - One staff member had not signed in on review of the care room roll book at 12:13pm.
 - Two staff members had signed out by 11:57am however they were still working.

This was a noncompliance in the previous report from May 2023. The steps taken by the registered provider have not prevented the noncompliance from reoccurring.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. **Corrective action:** As mentioned Garda vetting was carried out on the day of inspection for the staff member in which the Garda vetting expired.
Preventive action: A checklist in place to make sure Garda vetting is carried out before their expiration date.

2. **Corrective action:** A pest control box was removed and placed in an area out of reach for children. Pest control came out for inspection, raised concern about pest control stated that there is no poison within the boxes and designed for childcare facilities.

Preventive action: The service spoke to Pest control and the box has been moved to ensure highest safety for the children

Infection Control:

3. **Corrective action:** Waterproof mattress covers were purchased and placed on all nursery mattresses.

Preventive action: Management will ensure these covers are maintained to the highest hygiene standard.

Fire safety:

4. **Corrective action:** Memo's & meetings with each staff member was carried out to ensure they knew the importance of signing themselves and children in and out were appropriate during working hours.

Preventive action: Random inspections will be done weekly to ensure this is carried out properly.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence of completed Garda vetting.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of waterproof mattresses and receipt of purchase.

Fire safety:

Copy of memo issued to staff.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 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 a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed that fire drills were conducted monthly and the last one recorded was on the 5th March 2024.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available for review in the service. The record showed that the firefighting equipment was last serviced in August 2023 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 18th August 2023.

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 the service was adequately insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the number of children the service can accommodate at one time and an expiry date of 27th March 2023.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

- (e)
1. One sanitary facility was available for eleven staff. An additional sanitary facility is required to meet the requirement of one hand basin and one toilet for every eight staff members. This was a noncompliance on the previous inspection report in May 2023.
 2. A divider used to separate two children's toilets on the middle floor covered only a small portion of the toilet and was open in the front meaning children remained in view of each other while using the toilet or the sink. The divider installed did not provide for privacy of the children during toileting.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The service owner has been informed of the need for another sanitary facility for staff.
2. A wooden divider will be installed which will slide across when two children are using the bathroom. It will be wipeable and a height suitable to ensure privacy. Work to be completed by June 21st 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

Regulatory compliance remains outstanding for Regulation 29 (e) until the work is completed to address points 1 and 2 above.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)(b)(c) The service had a complaints policy which outlined the information required.
- (2)(a) A record in writing was available of any complaints made to the service.
- 3(a)(b) A record in writing of complaints received included the nature of the complaint and the manner in which complaints are dealt with was available for review.