

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY301		
Name of Service:	Primary Shapes		
Address of Service:	366 Lower Kimmage Rd, Terenure, Dublin 6W.		
Eircode:	D6W DK00		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Prendergast		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/07/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM 19
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley		
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

Primary Shapes is registered to provide full day, part-time and sessional care for children aged 0-6 years. The early years service is privately owned and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:00 –18:00. The service is situated in an adapted two storey house in a residential suburb of Kimmage, Dublin 6W. The service is comprised of 3 care rooms, the Toddler room, the Pre-Montessori/Wobbler room, and the Montessori room. The Pre-Montessori room has been divided in 2 to create the Wobbler room. The Montessori room is located on the first floor of the premises. A fourth care room is available in the service but is currently only used for sleep. On the day of inspection, the Toddler room was closed.

There are three care rooms available for the pre-school children named the Wobbler and Pre-Montessori room, this room is divided by a partition to cater for two different age groups. The Montessori room is located on the first floor of the premises and the Toddler room is located in a purpose-built building to the rear of the main building. On the day of inspection, the Toddler room was closed. A separate sleep room with six standard cots was available for children under two years to sleep. An outdoor area was available for the children to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

Six staff are employed to work in the service including the registered provider. One of the staff members is employed as a cook. On the day of inspection five staff were present.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

9 (1) (a), (b) (2) (a)-(d) & (4) – Management and Recruitment

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

Regulation 19 (1)(b) – Health Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a) &(b) – Fire Aid

Regulation 26(1), (2)(a), (b) & (4) – Fire Safety

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, 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

(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

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person to deputise as required.

(2) The files for six staff employed in the service were reviewed as part of the inspection. Documentation reviewed in respect of these adults met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the twelve references that were required, ten were available from a past employer and two were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the six staff members. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

(d) None of the staff employed in the service had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that five staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. The sixth staff member was employed as the cook and did not require a 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.

(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

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the Wobblers and Montessori rooms on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times as per the staff roster.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that at all times there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. In the Pre-Montessori room between 10.49 am and 11.37 am one adult was responsible for the care of eight children. Seven of these children were aged under 3 years and one child was aged 3 years. The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 2–3-year age range is 1:6.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The non-compliance was discussed with staff at staff meeting on the 21 August 2024. As agreed at a staff meeting in the minutes - in future, staff members requiring time off (for short period) less than an hour will discuss class ratios with their supervisor or Manager to ensure ratio guidelines are adhered to at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the minutes of the staff meeting submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated will address the non-compliances. The regulatory requirement is deemed to have been met. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Healthy eating was promoted in the service. The registered provider reported that food was provided for children attending including snacks and a hot meal of chicken pesto and broccoli pasta was prepared on-site by a cook. Morning snack time was observed to be relaxed and sociable. Children sat together and were given time to enjoy their food. The children from the Montessori room ate their snack outdoors. Drinking water was available to children in their respective rooms. Nappy changing took place at regular intervals and when required during the day and older children used the toilet independently while being closely supervised.

The atmosphere in the care rooms was observed to be calm. Staff were familiar with children in their care and interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection. Staff spoke in gentle tones to the children and were observed supporting their play. Transitions were managed appropriately. The transition from playtime to sleep time in the Pre-Montessori room was managed with the use of stories.

All children were given the opportunity for outdoor play. The outdoor play area was safely secured with a high fence and gate. An artificial grass surface was provided and the area was well resourced with a variety of play equipment and toys for the children to use.

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:

- The entrance to the service was safely secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- All toys and play equipment in use on the day of inspection was safe for the age group using them and in good condition.

- The kitchen was not accessible and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and the service maintained a record of daily cleaning completed.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of soothers and soothers were stored correctly.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play after using the toilet and before meals.
- The nappy changing procedure was observed. Staff followed the Nappy changing policy and completed all required steps to prevent the spread of infection.

Administration of Medication:

- A sample of records of previous medications given were reviewed. The records were completed correctly signed by parents and witnessed by a second staff member in line with the Administration of Medication Policy for the service.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.
- The temperature of the sleep room was maintained at the correct temperature for sleep.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the Pre-Montessori room a trailing flex from the air purifier posed a potential safety risk.
2. In the Wobbler room staff reported one of the children receives a bottle of pasteurised milk daily, this milk was heated in the microwave posing a potential risk of hot spots.

Infection Control:

3. In the Wobbler room the fabric on a cushion on the child sizes sofa was torn and internal foam was exposed and as a result it could not be cleaned effectively for infection control purposes.

4. In the Pre-Montessori sanitary area, a foot operated pedal bin was not provided to dispose of paper towels. Children were observed to dispose of paper towels and tissues in an open basket on a shelf posing a potential infection control risk.
5. The six cot mattresses in the cot room did not have a waterproof mattress protector posing a potential infection control risk.
6. In the Montessori sanitary area the toilet paper was not wall mounted posing a potential infection risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The trailing flex from the air-purifier was fixed securely at the back to avoid any potential safety risks. Non-compliance was discussed at Staff meeting and all staff agreed to adhere to keeping flexes out of the reach of children to avoid any potential safety risks.

Infection Control:

2. The correct procedure for heating bottles was discussed at the staff meeting. All staff agreed that bottles will be heated in a jug of hot water until the bottle is warmed sufficiently and not placed in a microwave to avoid a potential risk of hot spots.
3. The grey couch in the Wobbler room has been removed to the staff room to be repaired. A red couch has been placed in the Wobbler room for children's seating to replace the grey couch.
4. The open basket on the shelf posing a potential infection control risk was removed from the Pre-Montessori room. A small pedal bin has replaced the paper towel basket in the Pre-Montessori room.
5. Six waterproof mattress protectors were procured by the provider. The six waterproof mattress protectors were placed on the six cot mattresses in the cot room and will be washed weekly or as required. Staff have been informed to include these protectors in the weekly washing.
6. New toilet roll holders have been purchased. The toilet roll holders have been installed by the provider to prevent potential risk of infection and staff have been informed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted under Regulation 23 General Safety and Infection Control. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 registered provider ensured a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times during the inspection. Three staff present had up to date First aid responder certificates.

(2)
(a) A suitably equipped first aid boxes were available, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position on the premises.

(b) The first aid box was readily available to the children attending 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 all fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 28 June 2024.
- (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 12 of March 2024 and that fire detection and alarm system had been serviced on the 30 of May 202.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within the service.