

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY322
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Name of Service:	Brighton Day Care
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Address of Service:	11 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D06 F224
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Shepard-Macdonnell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	20/11/2023
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Date 2 of Inspection:	21/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	90	PM	77
Day 2	AM	90	PM	77

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
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Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern & M. Redmond
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Brighton Day Care operates from a four-storey domestic building in a residential area of Rathgar, Dublin 6. The service offers sessional, part-time and full-day care to children from 10 months to 6 years of age. Children are accommodated in 1 of 11 rooms according to their age and stage of development. There is a designated sleep room available to children attending the Baby and Wobbler rooms and an outdoor area at the rear.

Staffing

There are 27 staff members employed to work in the service including the registered provider. All staff work directly with the children.

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.

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 days 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 service had a person in charge and named persons to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a deputy to be present at all times of opening.

(2)

(a) & (b) Through review of records it was evident that adequate consideration had been given to references for all staff members. References had been sourced from their past employers and from another source where they had only one or no previous employers. A record was made of the verification checks.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) Through review of records it was evident that international police vetting had been considered for staff whom it was required.

(4) Records were available evidencing that all staff held 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.

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 children. There were 22 adults working with 90 children on both mornings of inspection and 18 adults working with 77 children in the afternoons.

(2) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

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

The inspectors observed children moving freely, exploring their environment, playing, and engaging with each other and the adults. They spent time outdoors and were dressed appropriate to the weather in coats and hats. Children who were wearing nappies had these changed at routine times and when needed in between. The other children used the toilet as they needed. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals. The children sat together when eating and the staff supported them as needed and engaged in conversation.

Drinking water was available within the rooms and all children were offered drinks when eating. The younger children were provided with bibs to protect their clothing from spills and were assisted to clean their faces and wash their hands at appropriate times.

Children attending the Baby room were placed to sleep before dinner (11:30am) with the opportunity for a second nap in the afternoon. Children attending the Wobbler and Toddler rooms had an opportunity to sleep after dinner. Staff told the inspectors that they facilitate the children to sleep outside of this time if needed. The rooms where children slept were quiet and calm. Children's outer clothing was removed, and appropriate bedding was used. An area was available within the rooms where children could rest comfortably at any time.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Records were kept in relation to the younger children's day including nappy changes, diet and sleep for sharing with parents on collection.

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

Infection Control:

The registered provider had taken appropriate measures to minimise the risk of infection spreading as outlined in the examples below:

- The Pre-school rooms, sanitary facilities and equipment were observed to be in a clean condition.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels for handwashing.
- Children's hands were washed prior to eating, after outdoor play, after toileting and after nappy changes.
- Children's nappies were changed in accordance with the service's infection control procedure.
- Bed linen and soft furnishings were in a clean condition. Staff told inspectors these are laundered weekly and in between if needed.
- Pedal operated, lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Safe Sleep:

The registered provider had taken appropriate measures to safeguard the children during sleep as outlined in the examples below.

- Appropriate sleep facilities were available. These included cots for younger children and beds and sleep mats for older children.
- The temperature of the cot rooms was recorded at 19°C which is within the required range of 16-20°C to reduce the risk of overheating.
- Staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the steps to take to reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS); this included placing infants on their back to sleep and using breathable blankets.
- Staff made checks on sleeping children at 10-minute intervals. Records were kept of the checks including the children's colour, position, and breathing.