

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY328
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Leeson Park Creche & Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------------------

Address of Service:	39 Leeson Park, Ranelagh, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D06 CX63
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Mícheál O'Ceallaigh
-------------------------------------	---------------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	23/04/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	15
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
---	---

Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee & M. Redmond
----------------------------------	-----------------------

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

This private childcare service has been in operation since 2006. Full day care is provided for children aged one to five years of age. The hours of operation are between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

The service operates from the lower ground floor of a period building which is the registered provider's domestic dwelling. The area has been modified to accommodate the service. Care is delivered across three rooms; there is no dedicated sleep room. Children have access to an enclosed garden to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were nine adults employed to work in the service children including a manager and an administrative assistant. The registered provider does not work in the service One adult employed to work with children had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications and six adults had qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent. Another adult who did not have the required qualification had a letter of qualification recognition issued by the DCEDIY.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 26 Fire safety

Regulation 28 Insurance

Regulation 29 Premises

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 Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan was submitted on 13 June 2024. The Inspectorate was unable to assess regulatory compliance. A second opportunity was afforded to the registered provider. The registered provider requested an extension due to leave. This second response was received on 4 July 2024 and has been accepted.

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 service manager, 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). The files of eleven adults were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.

These 11 files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below;

- (a) Eighteen validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Four validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 7 adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were six adults working directly with fifteen children on the day of inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(i) The staff roster accurately reflected who was present on the day of inspection.

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:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Emergency exits were kept clear at all times during the inspection. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

Children's hands were washed before eating and after outdoor play. Foot pedal bins were used appropriately by adults and children. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Two pieces of heavy equipment were not secured to the wall in the Toddler room to prevent tipping and injury.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The service removed the two pieces of heavy equipment. No other equivalent type of furniture will replace these units.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed this non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

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) There was a record of fire drills which had taken place; the last recorded fire drill was on the 2 April 2024.
 - (b) There was an annual maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated July 2023.

Non-Compliance Information

(b) The record did not indicate that annual servicing of the smoke alarms had taken place.

This has been a non-compliance on previous inspections dated 6 June 2023 and 25 October 2023.

Following the last inspection, the registered provider stated the corrective action and preventative action would be that an annual service of the smoke detection system would be conducted immediately and on a quarterly basis going forward.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service provider for maintenance of the system has assured us that quarterly and annual checks of the smoke detection system has taken place. The certificate displayed shows that the system was inspected on the 10 April 2024. The quarterly service of the system is scheduled for 8 July 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of the certificate displayed

Summary Comment

The certificate of servicing and testing of the fire alarm and detection system did not indicate when an annual service had taken place; the relevant sections of the document to indicate quarterly or annual inspections were blank. Section 9.2 of IS 3218 2013 (Fire Detection and Alarm Systems) states that quarterly and annual inspections and testing should be carried out and relevant certification retained.

The requirement is deemed to have been met and will be assessed again at the time of the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of insurance cover for 30 children, attending on full time basis. This is valid until 27/03/2025.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(c) On the day of inspection, the premises was adequately lit, heated and ventilated. Windows which previously could not be opened in the Wobbler room had been refurbished and were openable. Light fittings had been secured.

(d) The service was clean and well maintained and had been painted recently. Cleaning schedules were in place.

(e) There are two toilets, two wash hand basins and a nappy changing unit designated for children's use. There is a separate toilet and wash hand basin designated for use by staff. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available and did not exceed 43°C.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Two large blinds in the Toddler room and one large blind in the Wobbler room were broken and in need of repair or replacing.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Broken Blind removed and chain in other blind re-attached to door. Blind in wobbler room under repair.
Regular checks on blinds with same to be repaired or replaced or removed as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs were submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.