

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY347
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Name of Service:	FamiliBase
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Address of Service:	Blackditch Road, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 F439
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Doyle
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	18/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

This service is located in an urban setting in Ballyfermot, Dublin Southwest. It provides a full time, part time and a sessional service (morning and afternoon) to children aged between 0-6 years. The service is currently operating between 8.30am – 5.30pm, Monday to Friday. The premise is a purpose-built adapted centre with three preschool rooms, a sleep room, a kitchen, an office and a meeting room. Each preschool room has their own outdoor area directly outside each care rooms. The preschool rooms are called the Garden room (age 6-18 months), Under the sea (2-2.5 years and the Jungle room (2years and 8 months -6 years).

Staffing

There were 10 adults present on the day of inspection, the designated person in charge, eight childcare workers and an auxiliary assistance who prepares all the meals. The registered provider was in an adjoining building and does not work 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/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (2) & (4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11 Staffing levels.

Regulation 16(h) Attendance records.

Regulation 19 (1b) Health Welfare and Development of child.

Regulation 25 First Aid.

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures.

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child and regulation 16 (i) Details of staff roster on a daily basis.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1b) Health Welfare and Development of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection focused on the garden room and under the sea.

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.

Additional Information

19 January 2024

An Immediate Action Notice was sent to the registered provider under Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child as unauthorised access was possible on one occasion on the day of inspection. The inspector was able to access the service on arrival as the main door into the service was open. During the day it was observed that the door does have an automatic close but is very slow to close which poses a safety risk to the children. The service addressed this concern on 19 January 2024.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

(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 all 14 staff were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation.

These 14 files were reviewed on the day of the inspection as evidenced below;

- (a) Twenty-four 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 all adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that 13 adults working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications or a qualification deemed 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 with the children. There were 7 adults working with 20 children in the morning and 5 adults with 15 children in the afternoon.

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

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

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

Compliance Information

(h) The details of attendance for each school child was recorded accurately.

Non-Compliance Information

(i) The staff roster did not accurately reflect who was present on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The early years and after-school will have their individual rosters. The roster for the early years and after-school in the office will be updated when required. If the manager is on leave the lead practitioner for the early years and the lead practitioner for the after-school will update the roster when required.

This will be reviewed in the weekly meeting, with both lead practitioners and the manager.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

The service had a three-week menu. Breakfast is provided on arrival, a hot dinner and tea for all children attending the service. Water was available during the day and during mealtimes. Bibs were supplied to protect the children's clothing. Staff encouraged and supervised the children during mealtimes. The children's nappies were changed regularly, and the older children were supervised using the toilet. The adults supervised the children as they washed their hands. The children in the garden room slept after dinner in their cots in the adjoining sleep room while the children in under the sea slept after dinner on floor mats. Soft furnishings were provided to facilitate children to rest during the day when required.

All children played outside on the day of inspection. The children in the garden room wore outdoor wet suits when going to the garden. There were separate outdoor areas with artificial grass coverings which were easily accessible from the preschool rooms. Each area was designated for use by the children and appropriate play equipment was provided. Staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. They communicated with the children using soft and gentle tones and promptly comforting children when they became upset

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

An Immediate Action Notice was sent to the registered provider as unauthorised access was possible on one occasion on the day of inspection. The inspector was able to access the service on arrival as the main door into the service was open. During the day it was observed that the door does have an automatic close but is very slow to close which poses a safety risk to the children. The service addressed this concern on 19 January 2024.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

On the 19/01/2024, the facilities team adjusted the door magnet to ensure the door closes promptly. This will be part of the facilities team weekly checks.

The service sent out a message in the families WhatsApp groups and staff WhatsApp groups to remind them to ensure door closes when they enter and exit the building.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance has been addressed by the registered provider. This regulation will be reassessed on the next inspection.

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 as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times.
- (2)
(a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.
(b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.

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 firefighting 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 last recorded fire drill was on 30 November 2023.
 - (b) There was an annual record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms had been serviced.
- (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