

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY371
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Name of Service:	Safari Childcare
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Address of Service:	2 Hanover Street East, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D02 E860
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Name of Registered Provider:	Kevin McGuinness and Cian Powell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	01/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	64	PM	51
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Griffin and A. Dunne
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

Safari Childcare is one of a seven services operated by the registered provider. This service is located in Dublin City Centre. A full day care and sessional service is provided for children aged between 1 to 6 years old. The service is registered to operate from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and is currently operating from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) and the ECCE session operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm. A registered School Age Service also operates at Safari Childcare. There are six rooms in operation, and these are two Wobbler Rooms (Unicorn and Flamingo), Toddler Room (Jungle Crew), two Montessori Rooms (Caterpillar and Butterfly) and an ECCE/School Age Care room (Honeybee). There is an outdoor area at the front of the building and a large indoor play area.

Staffing

The two named registered providers and the person in charge were not present on the day of inspection. There were two designated deputy people in charge in a supernumerary capacity. The registered providers employ twenty-one staff members. On the day of inspection there were two deputy people in charge, seventeen childcare staff, sixteen students present on work experience in a supernumerary capacity and one adult working in an ancillary role as a cook. The two named registered providers do 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (2)(4)-Management and Recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)-Staffing Levels.

Regulation 21-Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23-Safeguarding the Health, Safety, and Welfare of child.

Regulation 25- First Aid

Regulation 29(e)- Premises

A Sampling process was used to assess compliance under: Regulation 21 and Regulation 23. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler Room (Unicorn), Toddler Room (Jungle Crew), and Montessori Room (Butterfly).

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

1 February 2024

An Immediate Action notice was issued to the service in relation to the following:

Regulation 23- Main door of the service being open and not secure which posed a risk to the safety of children.

Please see details in the body of the report.

The deputy person in charge addressed the non-compliances under Regulation 23. Please see details in the body of the report.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the two designated deputy people 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) It was confirmed with the deputy person in charge that nine new staff members have been employed since the last inspection. The files of the nine new staff members along with the files of sixteen students who were on work experience in a supernumerary capacity as support in the care rooms were reviewed as part of the inspection. In

addition, the files of all staff were reviewed to ensure each staff member had up to date Garda Vetting Disclosures.

(2)(a)(b) Eighteen written and validated references were available in relation to nine staff. Thirty-two written and validated references were available in relation to sixteen students.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures dated before the employment start date were available on file for the nine new staff members and sixteen students. All staff files reviewed had up to date Garda Vetting Disclosures.

(d) Police vetting was available for eight staff and sixteen students who have lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the nine new staff members who worked 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 and Youth Affairs.

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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

There were 15 adults working with 65 children in the morning and 12 adults working with 51 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

During the morning:

- Wobbler 1 Unicorn Room – there was 3 adults working directly with 6 children aged 12 to 18 months.
- Wobbler 2 Flamingo Room – there were 2 adults working directly with 8 children aged 18 to 24 months.
- Toddler Jungle Crew Room – There were 3 adults working directly with 15 children aged 2-3 years old.

- Montessori 1 Caterpillar Room – there was 3 adults working directly with 10 children aged 3-4 years old.
- Montessori 2 Butterfly Room – there was 2 adults working directly with 14 children aged 4-5 years old.
- ECCE Honey Bee Room – there was 2 adults working directly with 12 children aged 3-5 years old.

During the afternoon:

- Wobbler 1 Unicorn Room – there was 2 adults working directly with 5 children aged 12 to 18months.
- Wobbler 2 Flamingo Room – there were 2 adults working directly with 8 children aged 18 to 24 months.
- Toddler Jungle Crew Room – There were 3 adults working directly with 15 children aged 2-3 years old.
- Montessori 1 Caterpillar Room – there was 2 adults working directly with 10 children aged 3-4 years old.
- Montessori 2 Butterfly Room – there was 2 adults working directly with 13 children aged 4-5 years old.

The two-deputy people who were in charge on the day of inspection were present in a supportive role.

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 care rooms in the service were designed with the age and stage of development having been taken into consideration. Children were observed to take part in free play and group work. The layout of the rooms facilitated these choices as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were visible and accessible to the children. There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room. Cosy areas of soft floor mats or rugs with soft chairs, cushions and books for rest and relaxation were present There was equipment to reflect the children’s interests and their emergent curriculum.
- The presence of Family wall displays, birthday time displays and children had their own personalised placemat with their artwork and photograph in the Jungle Crew Room, this demonstrated a sense of identity and belonging for the children.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, stored in photographic labelled boxes and on low shelves to include: arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children; home areas with play kitchens with supporting equipment

and play food, range of construction toys to include jigsaws and wooden puzzles, wooden building blocks, plastic building bricks, stickle bricks, magnetics; sorting and stacking toys; toys for transporting such as cars trucks and a garage, trains with train tracks and small world play toys of dolls houses with furniture and small characters, farm, sea and wildlife animals and dinosaurs; for imaginary play dress up clothes, instruments, dolls clothes, dolls highchair, tools, doctors set. Montessori materials supporting the areas of practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture were also present.

- An indoor play area was available for the children with artificial grass and a wooden climbing frame, with two slides and a bridge for the children to cross over. Equipment and toys in the indoor area included: large jigsaw, a wooden kitchen, balls, a tunnel, connecting bricks, balance equipment and ride on vehicles. The children were observed to play in this area during the inspection.
- An outdoor play area was available for the children with both artificial grass and a soft ground surface. The equipment and toys available included, a wooden playhouse, trikes, ride on equipment, football goals and balls providing learning opportunities for children.

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:

- Attendance records were maintained and updated as children arrived or left.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean with completed cleaning schedules available.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Handwashing was observed after outdoor play, before and after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, and before and after mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children.

- Nappy changing was completed at set times or when required and in accordance with the service policy and procedure.
- Individual bed linen was available to the children and was stored individually labelled bags

Safe Sleep:

During sleep time, the following was observed:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots and floor beds for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of soft floor sleep mats and comfortable rest areas available in the care rooms.
- Children were provided with cellular blankets for sleep.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- The temperature of the cot room was recorded as 18.7°C at 12.07pm, meeting the acceptable temperature of 18-22 °C while children over 1 years old sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service at 10.13am, the main door of the service was not secure or monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. It is acknowledged that the service took immediate action to address the non-compliance and the service maintenance person arrived at 11.09am and the door was fixed at 11.24am. An immediate action notice was issued.
2. Two areas on both sides of the exit door to the outdoor play area were not secure, posing a risk of injury.
3. The hot water in the wash hand basin of the Wobbler 1 – Unicorn room did not have thermostatically controlled water; the temperature was recorded as 46°C at 12.27 pm, exceeding the allowable maximum temperature of 43 °C, leading to a risk of injury.
4. The bottom of the fire exit gate in the outdoor play area was broken with exposed wooden material, leading to a risk of injury.

Infection Control:

5. The temperature of the water in the taps of the three wash hand basins in the nappy changing area was recorded as follows:

WHB 1	WHB 2	WHB 3
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14.7 °C

14.9°C

14.8 °C

This is not conducive to effective Handwashing, leading to a risk of poor infection control.

Safe Sleep:

- No sleep record for ten-minute checks was available for review, for one child who slept between 9am and 10.30am in the Montessori 1 Caterpillar room, leading to a risk of safety.

Fire Safety:

- The route to the Outdoor play area which is also an emergency escape route was congested with play equipment, a large box and a barbeque with gas cylinder, leading to a risk of safety in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

General Safety:

Corrective Action

- The service took immediate action to address the non-compliance and the service maintenance person arrived at 11.09am.
- The areas identified leading to the outdoor garden have been secured and fixed.
- The thermostat in the unicorn room was located under the sink and the temperature has been adjusted to the correct temperature.
- The fire exit gate in the outdoor garden have been secured and fixed.

Preventive Action

- The service will continue to monitor the front door and complete all risk assessments to ensure emergency exits and pathways to the outdoors are clear and safe posing no risk or injury to the child. The registered provider has stated that the temperature of the sinks will be checked daily.

Infection Control:

Corrective Action

- The thermostat in the unicorn room was located under the sink and the temperatures of the three sinks in the changing room have been adjusted to the correct temperature.

Preventive Action

- The registered provider has stated that the temperature of the sinks will be checked daily.

Safe Sleep:

Corrective Action

- The registered provider has stated that staff in the Montessori classes were told to complete sleep record sheets for any child who sleeps during the day.

Preventive Action

- The registered provider has stated that a sleep sheet will be recorded for children sleeping.

Fire Safety:

Corrective Action

- The emergency exit route has now been cleared.

Preventive Action

- The service will complete all risk assessments to ensure emergency exits and pathways to the outdoors are clear and safe posing no risk or injury to the child.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Photographic evidence of the areas identified leading to the outdoor garden secured and fixed.
- Photographic evidence of the unicorn room water temperature reading at the correct temperature reading below 43° C.

Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence of the water temperature in the three sinks in the changing area showing they have warm water.

Safe Sleep:

- No support documentation submitted.

Fire Safety:

- Photographic evidence of the exit route cleared.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered providers have addressed the non-compliances identified. The regulatory requirement has now been met for Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

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 five adults were trained in First Aid Response 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 positions in the service.

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.

Compliance Information

(e) There were sufficient sanitary facilities available in the service as the requirement for one toilet/nappy changing facility and one handwash basin for every 11 children had been met. There were three nappy changing stations available with three wash hand basins.

Non-Compliance Information

(e) The service had not met the requirement for staff member sanitary facilities as there was two staff toilets available for the 18 staff working in the service and 16 students present in the service on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider has stated that management will ensure there is sufficient number of sanitary facilities available for all adults in the building, on this occasion there was a let-down with the student accommodation, as they were due to attend another centre for their practice, however this won't happen again.

Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that the service will only take the correct number of students ensuring there is adequate sanitary facilities in the centre.

Supporting documentation submitted

- No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The Corrective and Preventive actions taken by the registered providers have addressed the non-compliance.

The regulatory requirement has now been met for Regulation 29 Premises.