

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY373		
Name of Service:	Little Treasures Preschool Playgroup		
Address of Service:	50 La Touche Road, Bluebell, Bluebell, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D12 DE09		
Name of Registered Provider:	Breda Bowes		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	01/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM 6
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
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

Little Treasures Preschool Playgroup is a privately owned full day care service and is one of two services operated by the registered provider in Dublin 12. The service is located in an urban, residential area of Bluebell in South Co. Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between 1 and 6 years and the service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 17:00 hours. Little Treasures is a purpose-built single storey property which is located at the rear of the registered providers own home. The service comprises of one open plan care room, a dedicated sleep room, a kitchen, and sanitary accommodation. The children have access to an outdoor play area on the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs six staff members, including the registered provider who works directly with the children in the service. On the day of inspection, there were three adults present in the morning time including the registered provider and three other adults present in the afternoon.

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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider on the 1st September 2023 following the inspection in relation to Regulation 25 First Aid. A response was received from the registered provider on the 7th September 2023 which addressed the risk identified.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, the registered provider, person in charge and staff 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) Documentation was assessed under Regulation 9 for all six adults currently employed to work in the service.

The following records were available for the adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from two sources for three of the adults.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau for the six adults.

(d) Not applicable, international police vetting was not required the adults.

(4) There was evidence that each of the six adults 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

The registered provider had not taken appropriate steps to ensure three of the adults employed to work in the service were suitable and competent as follows:

- Two references available for one of the adults had not been verified.
- There were no references available for two of the adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response;

Corrective and Preventive Action

On the 01/09/2023 the provider validated the two references that needed to be validated. References were received from the other staff members on Monday the 4th of September, those references were then validated immediately. To prevent this from recurring, references will be validated before the employees start date.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The actions outlined will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

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

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were four children present in the service being supervised by two adults during the morning, and six children being supervised by three adults during the afternoon of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(8)(a)

The registered provider did not ensure that two adults were on the premises at all times as follows:

- At 12:00pm, there was one adult on the premises caring for three children after a staff member finished their shift. Another adult did not arrive on the premises until 12:15pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response;

Corrective and Preventive Action

A plan has been put into action that the staff member due to finish at 12:00pm will not finish at 12:15pm to give the other staff members a chance to come down from the preschool. To prevent this from happening in the future the working hours have been rotated to ensure there is constantly two staff members in the room.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

- (1) Records were reviewed for all six children attending the service by the inspector.
- The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) Of the six records reviewed, three did not contain all of the required information as set out under regulation 15(1) as follows:
- (f) There were no details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need recorded for one of the records.
 - (g) There were no details of the child's medical practitioner recorded for one of the records.
 - (h) There was no record of immunisations available for three of the records reviewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response;

Corrective and Preventive Action

All records are being revised and updated; all parents have been contacted to provide any missing information from records. The service will ensure that all records are filled in fully and completed correctly prior to the child's starting day.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

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;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A digital record was available in the care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Written records of the administration of medication were not available in the service. The registered provider stated the service do not administer medication and the service policy reflected this. Documentation was available in the service to record the administration of emergency medication should a child require it for a severe allergy or illness.
 - (k) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection. A sample reviewed documented necessary details.

Non-Compliance Information

- (i) A staff roster was not available in the service on the day of inspection detailing the staff members present in the service and the hours of work undertaken.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response;

Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff Roster is now completed for a period of two weeks and published to the staff, this is also printed and displayed in the room. Staff also sign in on an external application to keep track of the hours they completed. Rosters are kept up to date and displayed.

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

The inspector observed some appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

Staff reported that the service provided breakfast and a hot meal to the children. Lunch is provided daily by the parents of the children in attendance. All children were supported to eat independently during meals, and staff assisted children where required.

The play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led. Staff sat with the children throughout the inspection, engaged in various forms of play and were observed using prompts to extend children's play and learning. The children were all provided with the opportunity to play outdoors during the inspection. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and younger children wearing nappies were changed regularly and when required. Staff engaged warmly with the children during interactions observed by the inspector. The children appeared happy and content throughout the inspection.

Children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after their lunch on low level beds, and in cots within the dedicated sleep room. Staff provided comfort to the children when they were settling them to sleep, offering reassurance where required. Children who chose not to sleep were provided with various activities. A Rest area was available for children to relax or take time away from the group if required.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. Drinking water was not readily available to the children in the service during the inspection. Two children were offered water at mealtime, but two children were not.
2. Children were not offered plates at lunch time to eat their food from. Staff members were observed to take all children's food from home out of their lunch boxes and place it directly onto the table for children to eat.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response;

Corrective and Preventive Action

There is now a water station available for the children each morning where the children can access beakers of water when needed. Childrens lunches are now taken from the containers and plated at lunch time.

To prevent this from happening there has been measures put into place such as a water station and all the children's lunches being plated regardless of if they bring their own in.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

Staff stated an infection control policy was in place to inform practice. General waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector. Documentation was available to record such administration if required, a sample of this documentation was reviewed by the inspectors and was appropriate.

Safe Sleep:

Staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidance during discussions with the inspector. Sleep logs were maintained at sleep time and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were provided for children to rest as required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Powdered infant formula was prepared by staff in the service during the inspection and given to a baby in attendance. This is contrary to the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) guidelines on recommendations for the safe preparation and feeding of powdered infant formula (PIF) in child day-care setting.

Infection Control:

2. The nappy changing practices observed were ineffective for infection control purposes and at variance with the policy in place in the service as follows:
 - Children's hands were not washed following nappy changing.
 - A staff member was observed to re-dress a child using the soiled gloves worn during the nappy change.
3. A sangenic bin was in use for the disposal of nappies during the inspection. Staff members were observed handling the bin and pushing soiled nappies into it posing a risk of cross contamination.
4. Perishable items contained in the children's lunch boxes were not refrigerated prior to lunch time and remained in their bags in the care room which was recorded to be 24.5°Celsius during the inspection posing the risk of gastrointestinal illness.
5. Play materials and children's belongings including painting aprons and wellie boots were being stored in the sanitary area beside the nappy changing unit posing a risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The parents has stopped giving the child formula when attending the creche. The service will inform parents that facilities to make up formula bottles are not available

Infection Control:

2. Staff have been updated on napping changing policies and procedures.
3. A new pedal has been purchased and installed for the use of disposing nappies.
4. Childrens lunches are now put into the fridge in the morning then plated when its lunch time.
5. The materials including the aprons and wellies have been moved and stored in a new area to avoid cross contamination.

Staff meetings are held once a month, and staff will be updated regarding all policies and procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The actions outlined will be reviewed on the next inspection of the service.

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

(2)
(a)(b)
A suitably equipped first aid box was observed to be immediately accessible to the children within the service and was stored in a conspicuous location on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There were no adults available in the service with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) or Paediatric First Aid training. An immediate action notice was issued following the inspection in relation to Regulation 25(1).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff member with an up-to-date FAR cert has been put into place in the setting until the next staff member completes the FAR training course on the 14/09/2023, this has been emailed over as immediate action was taken. Going forward the service will have a person who holds an up to date FAR cert in the room.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on in 15th August 2023.
 - (b) There was record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in August 2023.
- (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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
- There was no evidence to show that maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place in the service. The registered provider stated a family member presses a button to test if they are working but that no official maintenance had occurred.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

An electrician has been arranged to come and rewire the smoke alarms to a new box, therefore we can then contain regular maintenance of the smoke alarm and have the information recorded on the Little Vista App. A new smoke alarm box will be fitted, and regular maintenance and testing will be done on the alarm.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

Non-Compliance Information

The premises were not adequately ventilated on the day of inspection. The room temperature was recorded to be 24.5° Celsius during the inspection which is above the required range of 18-22° Celsius. Staff members opened a window and put an air conditioning unit on, however the temperature could not be reduced.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider provided the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

On the day in question the record temperature was 27 degrees outside which is an usual occurrence, the staff members had all windows and air condition units working to try cool down the room.

An extra window has been installed in the sleep room for more ventilation, also an extra air conditioning unit will be purchased to have extra for the days they are needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.