

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY375			
Name of Service:	Safari Childcare Kilmainham			
Address of Service:	Unit 3 Kilmainham Square, Inchicore Rd, Kilmainham, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin			
Eircode:	D08X958			
Name of Registered Provider:	Kevin Mcguinness and Cian Powell			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/10/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	16
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.			
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley			
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 Kilmainham is a private childcare facility that was established in 2009 and is one of eight services operated by the registered providers in Dublin and Wicklow regions. The service is registered as a full day care and offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The age range of pre-school children enrolled in the service is 2-6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18.00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The early years service is located and operates from a single storey adapted unit in an apartment block complex situated in Kilmainham Square, Dublin 8. Care of the children was provided across three care rooms. An outdoor play area is adjacent to the premises.

Staffing

Seven staff including the designated person in charge are employed in the service. The 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations.

9(2), (3) and (4) –Management and Recruitment,
11 – Staffing levels,
16(h), (i), (j), and (k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.
19(1)(b) Health welfare and development of child.
25 – First Aid and
27– Supervision.

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 on 4 October 2023 for non-compliance with regulation 9(2)(c). A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who worked directly with the children on the day of inspection contrary to the National Garda Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. The registered provider responded on the 5 October to confirm the adult was no longer working in the service.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) Seven adults were employed in the service and an additional adult was present on the day of inspection on a work trial. The inspection focused on the recruitment records for eight adults as detailed;

(a) Twelve written validated references were provided from a past employer.

(b) Two written validated references were provided from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for seven adults.

(d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing that seven adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a), (b) There were no written validated references for one adult.
- (c) There was no Garda vetting disclosure available for one adult who was present in the service and working directly with the children. An Immediate Action notice was issued to the registered providers.
- (d) Police vetting was not available for one adult who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (3) All required recruitment procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out by the registered providers prior to an adult being allowed access to children attending the pre-school service.
- (4) There was no evidence to demonstrate one adult who worked directly with the children on the day of inspection had the required qualification.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) -(d),(3) and (4)

All documents will be obtained before future employees who are asked to attend a trial period will be obtained. The adult on the day of inspection was not hired by Safari Childcare, so we do not have any further documents. The registered provider has reviewed the recruitment policy highlighting to management the steps required before new staff members join the team. An employment checklist is to be completed before each staff member begins their employment with us. This will be monitored by management and the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written record.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty children attending the service being supervised by seven adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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) Details of attendance of each child was recorded at the time of arrival and departure
 - (i) The staff roster was available and accurately reflected the adults working in the service on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
 - (k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed. The forms were completed as required and signed by parents and staff.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

(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)(a)(b)

The designated person in charge reported that all meals are provided by the service. A morning snack of sliced apple, banana and orange was offered to the children. At lunchtime a hot meal of fish pie and mashed potatoes was served. Mealtimes were relaxed children sat together and were given plenty of time to eat their meal. In the Pre-school room a helper system was in place, each day a different child was given a different task for example giving out the cups at mealtimes. This practice helped to involve children in their care and promote a sense of responsibility. Drinking water was freely available in all care rooms.

In the Toddler room younger children had an opportunity to sleep at a designated sleep time. Sleep mats were provided. Staff informed the inspector if children do not want to sleep, they can be accommodated in the pre-school room until after sleep time.

Children were encouraged and observed to use the toilet independently. Younger children's nappies were changed as required during this time staff interacted warmly with the children.

Transitions within the service were managed appropriately. At all times staff spoke kindly to children. Children were given advanced notice of clean up time for dinner. The transition from playtime to dinner time in the Pre-School room was managed with the use of stories. The staff described how they communicate information to parents daily about their child's day at drop off and collection times.

Care rooms were arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the opportunity to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included home corner, dress up, construction area, musical instruments, art materials and chalkboards. A book stand with a good selection of age-appropriate books was set up beside the designated rest areas. The care rooms facilitated a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving.

The outdoor area was enclosed with a fence and a gate and had a rubber tile surface. A variety of play equipment and toys were available including a climbing frame and slide, ride on toys, push along toys, a sensory wall, balls, a sandpit and water table. Children from the Pre-school and ECCE rooms were observed accessing the outdoor play area 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:

- Entry to the service was secure an intercom and bell system was in operation to allow authorised access and to prevent children from leaving the premises unsupervised.
- All toys and play equipment observed on inspection were safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- All cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained.
- Mouthed toys were removed and cleaned as required.
- Bed linen was laundered weekly and stored in individual bags.

- Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. Children in the Toddler and Pre-school rooms were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play and using the toilet and before meals.
- Nappy changing practice was observed. Staff followed the nappy changing policy and completed all required infection control steps.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal operated bins.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Administration of Medication:

- Care plans were available for children with specific medical needs. Staff were familiar with the medication policy and care plans when questioned. A suitable medication record form was available should medication be required.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The vent in the nappy changing area was not working and a foul odour present.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Works on the vent were carried out on Friday 20th of October. Staff and Management have been asked to report any risks, breakage or repair to our maintenance team when completing daily risk assessments.

Supporting documentation submitted

A receipt of maintenance work completed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection. Two additional staff present on inspection had up to date First Aid Responder training certificates which were valid until the 26 October 2024.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Children were supervised appropriately at all times during the inspection both in the care rooms and when in the outdoor play area by staff.