

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY378
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Name of Service:	Saint Ultans Childcare Project
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Address of Service:	St. Ultan's Childcare Project, Cherry Orchard Avenue, Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda McCoy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	55	PM	33
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee & O. Quill
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).

Description of service

This service is located within the grounds of Saint Ultans primary school in Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10. The service provides full day, part time or sessional care to children between 0-6 years of age. There are two sessional services 8:45am- 11.45 am and 12.45 pm – 3.45pm. There were 8 rooms within the school building, a prefabricated building containing two further care rooms and a new room called the cabin which were all located within the school grounds.

Staffing

The service employs twenty-six staff members to work directly with the children. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Birch room, the Maple room, the Olive room and the Oak room.

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

Regulation 11 Staffing levels.

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

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

Regulation 27 Supervision.

However, on the day of inspection, the service was found to be non-compliant under Regulation 8 -Notification of change in circumstances with the introduction of a new structure called The Cabin.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not notify the Agency in writing of the introduction of a new structure to be used as a care room. On the day of inspection, the service was providing a sessional service for 8 preschool children in a newly built structure called The Cabin. This structure had not been inspected to confirm if it was fit for purpose by the inspectorate.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Change of Circumstance form submitted. Additional information required by the registration office. Awaiting fire certificate. In the meantime, the cabin is not in use. This does not affect the operation of the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written record.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance.

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

- (9)
- (2) The service currently has twenty-six adults working directly with the children. All twenty-six files were reviewed as part of the inspection process as evidenced below;
- (a) Thirty-seven validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) Ten validated references from a source other than a past employer were available.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) There was evidence that nineteen 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. This qualification was not required for two further adults who were present on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

- (9)
- (2) The registered provider did not take appropriate measures to ensure adults were suitable and competent to work in an early years service as outlined below:
- (a) & (b) A reference from a source other than a past employer was available but was not validated in respect of one adult. Four validated references from either a past employer or a source other than a past employer were not available in respect of three adults.
- (4) There was no evidence that five 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a) and (b) References were validated and appropriate references were sourced.
- (4) Outstanding qualifications for staff submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated staff references. Copies of qualifications for staff.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were twenty adults working directly with 55 pre-school children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

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 provides all meals to children attending fulltime. This includes breakfast, a hot meal and a snack in the afternoon. Water and milk were offered during mealtimes and available during the day. The children's nappies were changed regularly, and the older children were supervised using the toilet. The children washed their hands and adults interacted attentively with the children. Individual child led activities were observed, these included sensory play, story time, construction of small world toys and a soft rest area for the children to rest when tired. Adults were observed speaking kindly and praising the children during these activities. The children had access to an outdoor play area and wore appropriate clothing when outside.

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:

The entrance door was adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The fire escape routes were free from any obstructions. Heavy furniture was secured. All cleaning agents and equipment were stored safely and securely in the service, out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

The children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and before eating. Both the indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean condition. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

On the day of inspection, two children were transitioning between rooms for different periods. The children were not recorded on the attendance record in the room they moved to, only in their initial room. Lack of clarity about the location of children within the service presents a risk in the event of emergency evacuation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Room transfer forms are in place. All staff have been informed to complete forms when transitions take place.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of transfer sheets signed by staff.

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 27 – Supervision

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

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, fifty-five preschool children were appropriately supervised by eighteen adults in the morning and thirty-three preschool children were appropriately supervised by thirteen adults in the afternoon. Staff maintained an active presence in the indoor and outdoor areas while children played.