

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY382		
Name of Service:	Eden Early Learning Centre		
Address of Service:	51 Sarsfield Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D10 XH98		
Name of Registered Provider:	Thea Norton		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	10/01/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
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

Eden Early Learning Centre was first established in 2014 and is privately operated. The early years service is registered to provide sessional care and education to pre-school children. The service currently operates Monday-Friday from 09:00-12:00. Children enrolled in the service are aged from two years and eight months to five years. The early years service is located on the ground floor of a two storey commercial premises in an urban area of Inchicore Dublin 8. Care of the pre-school children is provided in one care room. Sanitary accommodation for children and staff is located off the room. There is no outdoor area on the premises

Staffing

In total four adults are employed by the service. On inspection three adults including the registered provider worked 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. Compliance was assessed under Regulations.

9(2), and (4) –Management and Recruitment,

11 – Staffing levels,

16(h), (i), (j), and (k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.

19(1)(a) Health welfare and development of child.

25 – First Aid and

26 – Fire safety

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (j) and (k).

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) Four adults were employed in the service. The inspection focused on the recruitment records for these adults as detailed.

(a) Four written validated references were available from a past employer.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all adults employed in the service.

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

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

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) Two written validated references were not available for one adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) Two written references sourced from past reputable sources are now verified and validated. All staff and volunteer files have been checked to ensure that validated references, garda vetting and police vetting where applicable are held on file in a secure area, in respect of all adults working in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Two written validated reference submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. 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) 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 eleven children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

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 on a daily basis in all care rooms.
- (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 forms were reviewed. The forms were signed by staff and parents.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(i) There was no staff roster available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(i) A staff roster is now available. Now a routine function carried out by management.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. 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-
- (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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Each child's learning development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were actively engaged in a variety of activity during the inspection including tabletop activities and free play. During circle time children were observed to enjoy story time and singing and dancing along with staff to the 'hokey pokey song'. Warm interactions were observed between children and staff throughout the inspection. Healthy lunches were provided by parents. Staff and children sat together and ate their food in a relaxed environment. Drinking water was freely available.

The early years room was open plan and it was divided into areas of interest enabling children the freedom to play and explore. Examples included a home corner, arts and crafts, a library area and construction toys. The materials and equipment were easily accessible from the low-level shelving provided. A suitable cosy area with a child size sofa was provided for children to rest as required.

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 to prevent unauthorised access and children from leaving the premises unsupervised.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to the children.
- Toys and play equipment were safe for the age group using them.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Children were supervised washing their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and prior to eating. Warm water, liquid soap and paper towel were provided for hygienic hand washing.

Non-Compliance Information

Administration of Medication:

There was no system was in place to record medication given as per the medication policy. The temperature reducing medication available was past it's expiry date posing a potential safety risk should it be required.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Administration of Medication:

Form now available to record medication given as per policy. Up to date temperature reducing medication purchased and available. Up to date temperature reducing medication purchased and available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. 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 for children was at all times immediately available to the children. Three staff present had First aid responder certificates that were valid until the 1 April 2025.
- (2) (a) and (b) The first aid box was clearly labelled, easily accessible and available to the children.

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 monthly record of fire drills completed was maintained. The last fire drill was completed on the 20 December 2023.
 - (b) The maintenance record for the fire extinguisher was available and dated the 18 October 2023.
 - (4) The notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displaced in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(b) There was no record available to demonstrate the smoke alarm had been serviced. This posed a safety risk that smoke may not be detected in the event of a fire on the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(b) Smoke alarms have been maintained and certified. Arrangements have been set up with direct power and fire services to complete a bi-annual maintenance and check.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.