

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY394
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Alexandra College Pre-School
-------------------------	------------------------------

Address of Service:	Milltown Road, Milltown, Dublin 6w, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	DO6 X520
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Avril Lamplugh
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	14/09/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	18
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L.Magee
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

This service is located in an urban setting in Milltown, south county Dublin. The service is registered to provide full daycare, part-time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years. The service is registered to operate between the hours of 8:30am – 6pm, Monday to Friday. The service is located on the grounds of Alexandra junior and secondary school and currently operates from two large care rooms, one in the main school building and the second is a wooden structure on the grounds of the school. The children who attend for full day care, move to the “afterschool room” from 3pm – 6pm. The service has access to a large outdoor play area with a concrete surfacing.

Staffing

The service employs five 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

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 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

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

Immediate Action Notices Issued 15 September 2023

Governance

Regulation 9(2)(c) An Immediate Action Notice was issued as a mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. The registered provider submitted a response on 16 September stating the adult would not be present on the premises until Garda vetting had been obtained.

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.

(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) The service currently has five members of staff working directly with the children. All five staff files were reviewed as part of the inspection process as evidenced below;

(a) Nine validated references were available from past employers.

(b) One validated reference from a source other than a past employer were available.

(c) Garda vetting was available for four 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 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

Non-Compliance Information

9

(2)(c) An Immediate Action Notice was issued as a mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. The registered provider submitted a response on 16 September stating the adult would not be present on the premises until Garda vetting had been obtained.

(3) The registered provider did not ensure that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out before staff were appointed, assigned or allowed access or contact to children in the service. One adult commenced working in the service in August 2022 and the Garda vetting disclosure was dated 21/11/2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(c) Garda vetting was obtained for one adult. It is on file now.

(3) No employee will be allowed to start a job in the Preschool until garda vetting is in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of Garda vetting submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the action stated by the registered provider. 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 five adults working directly with 29 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:

All children receive a hot meal at lunchtime. Children attending for the full day, receive two hot meals in the canteen. Extra snacks were available in the rooms if the children were hungry. Snacks can also be sent in from home. Milk and water were offered with food and water was available to the children in the rooms throughout the day. The children were supervised using the toilet and interacted happily while washing their hands afterwards. Appropriate care was taken in the outdoor area to distinguish the preschool children from the older children and this provided a safe environment for the children to play in.

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 registered provider had taken steps to safeguard the children attending as demonstrated by the following findings;

- External doors were appropriately secured after to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- Storage of all cleaning products and equipment was observed to be safely out of reach of children.
- No loose cables were observed.
- All fire exits were observed to be clear from any obstructions.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed that measures had been taken to prevent the spread of infection within the service.

Examples of these are outlined below:

- The premises and equipment appeared clean and well maintained.
- Cleaning schedules were completed.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels for handwashing.
- The children washed their hands after using the toilet and before eating.

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.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.

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

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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. A fire drill last took place in the service on 7 September 2023.
 - (b) There was an annual record to show that the firefighting equipment and the maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced in August 2023.
 - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.