

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY399				
Name of Service:	HSE National Drug Treatment Centre Play therapy Department				
Address of Service:	HSE National Drug Treatment Centre, 30-31 Pearse St, Dublin 2				
Eircode:	D02 NY26				
Name of Registered Provider:	Maura Kehoe				
Service type:	Drop-In				
Date of Inspection:	27/01/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>1</td> <td>PM</td> <td>No.</td> </tr> </table>	AM	1	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	<p>Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K</p>
Inspection undertaken by:	C Kerrigan
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
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Description of service

The HSE National Drug Treatment Centre Play therapy Department is situated on Pearse St, Dublin 2. This service provides a drop-in service for children aged 0-6 years of age, for a maximum of 2 hours between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. The service is located within the main building and provides a service for parents attending the centre. The service is registered to accommodate 8 children at any one time. The service is available for School age children to attend. Children have access to a care-room with an adjoining outdoor area. There is a nappy changing area and children's sanitary area also available.

Staffing

There are currently two staff employed to work directly with the children and one adult who in their role provides support to staff and families using the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children within 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(4) Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 (1)(6)(8)(a) Staffing levels

Regulation 15(2) Record of a pre-school child
Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare & Development of Child
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials
Regulation 24(1) Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance
Regulation 25(1)(2)(a)(b) First Aid
Regulation 26(1)(a)(b)(4) Fire Safety Measures

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child. The scope of the inspection included the main care room.

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, 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

(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 files of four adults working within the service, to include the registered provider were reviewed. This included two staff members who provide direct care to the children and an adult who does not work directly with the children but does provide support to families in their role were reviewed.

(a) Four written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the two adults working within the service.

(b) Two written and validated references were available from a source other than a previous employer for the registered provider.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the three staff members who work directly with children. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(3) The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Regulatory Notice by ensuring that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to any staff member being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school.

(4) Three members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)(b) The registered provider did not have two written and validated references for one staff member available on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has provided evidence that written and validated references were sought in relation to the one adult working within the service. Documentation will now be kept within the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation received.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has ensured that corrective and preventive actions have been undertaken to address non-compliances under Regulation 9.

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.

(6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working directly with the children attending the service. There were two adults working with one child who was aged 11 months.

(6) It was observed that the correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection, as there was two staff members working with one child aged between 0-6 years.

(8) (a) The register provider ensured that there was two adults on the premises at all times, this was further indicated by review of the staff roster and conversation with staff on the day.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(2) *A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of 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 particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).*

Compliance Information

(2) The registered provider ensured there was a record in writing for each child that attended the service, which outlined their name, date of birth, parent particulars, authorisation for collection and lastly details of illness, allergies or pertinent medical history.

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)

Basic needs:

- The child present on the day of inspection had opportunities to move freely and participate in exploratory play throughout the care room. The staff spoke to the child in a respectful child centred manner, staff were able to discuss each child's individual preferences and needs.
- Nappy changing and toileting are undertaken in a child led manner. Whilst no nappy changing occurred during the inspection staff were able to discuss this process.

- Food is not routinely given within the service, through conversation with staff, they confirmed that parents may supply bottles for younger children. If then a child shows signs of hunger this is then given by staff and communicated to parents.

Supporting Relationships

- On the day of inspection staff members fostered an environment of openness and warmth through their interactions with the child in their care. For example, staff members got on the floor lying beside the child, encouraging and developing play that was child centred, discussing the child's preferred toys and overall development.
- During the inspection there was evidence of established teamwork within the room, transitions were coordinated and unrushed. For example, at pick up and drop off times, staff members ensured the child's wellbeing by interacting with them whilst also conversing with the parents in a respectful professional manner.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The room was a bright and inviting play space.

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for the children attending.
- The toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children, this nurtured children's independence and ability to make decisions.
- The layout of the room facilitated choice as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were visible and accessible to the children.
- There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate the maximum number of children who can attend the service.
- The care room had designated areas of interest which reflected the age and stage of development of the children attending. The play equipment and materials available included: play kitchen with supporting equipment, play gym, sensory toys, cause and effect toys, mirrors, activity centres, books, wooden

puzzles, arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children, home areas with play kitchen, a range of construction toys to include jigsaws, wooden puzzles, wooden building blocks, magnetics, links, straws, cubes, toys for transporting, cars, trucks, trains with train tracks; for small world play toys of dolls house.

- Cosy areas of soft floor mats with cushions and books in good condition for rest and relaxation were present.
- The Outdoor area was located adjacent to the care room, it was accessed via a door from the care room. The outdoor area was a secured with walls and fencing, flooring was shock absorbent tiling. Equipment present was a large playhouse, basketball net, footballs and one ride scooter.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that the child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member who was working directly with the child, this was documented in a diary held within the room.

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) Two staff members present held a certification in first aid response (FAR) and were available to the children during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)
- (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position within the premises.
 - (b) The first aid box was readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the pre-school 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 firefighting 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 record of fire drills completed in the service were available with the last drill dated 10 January 2025.
 - (b) In-date maintenance records for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available for inspection. Fire equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on the 7 January 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the care room and main reception of the service.