

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY409
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Name of Service:	Young Explorer's Club
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Address of Service:	Unit F1 Bymac Centre, Northwest Business Park, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Iwona Siniarska
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	19/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne, E Hosford
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.
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Description of service

Young Explorers Club is an early year's childcare service located in Northwest Business Park, Dublin 15. This service provides full day care, Monday to Friday, to preschool children aged from 1 to 6 years. The service operates from 7am-6pm, working within their registered hours of 6.30am to 6pm.

There are two rooms in the service as follows:

Wobbler / Toddler Room – Ladybird Room on the first floor cared for children aged between 1 years to 3 years, Preschool Room on the ground floor cared for children aged between 3 years to 5 years.

with a designated sleep room, sanitary facilities and a kitchen.

A secure outdoor play area is to the side of the service.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and can cater for a maximum of 22 children.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were 6 staff working in the service to include the person in charge, four childcare staff working directly with the children and one auxiliary staff member. The registered provider does 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 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.

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

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (1) (a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),

Regulation 16- Record in relation to preschool service,

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety,

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

The scope of the inspection included the two rooms – Wobbler / Toddler room – Ladybird room and Preschool room - Butterfly 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection and the General manager, a representative of the registered provider who was available remotely by phone for the Inspection Feedback meeting held at the end of the inspection process.

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) The files of the six staff members employed in the service were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for five staff members from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for one staff member from a past employer.

(b) One written and validated reference was available for one staff member from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for six staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for six staff who have lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the five staff members who worked directly with children attending the service held a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

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) On the day of inspection, there were five adults, including the person in charge working with 22 children.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

Room	Type of Service	Age Range in Years	Children Present	Adults Present	Minimum number of adults required
Wobbler / Toddler room – Lady bird Room	FDC	1year to 3 years	9 *FDC	2	2
Preschool room - Butterfly Room	FDC	3 to 5 years	13 *FDC	2	2

*FDC - Full Day Care

The person in charge was available to provide support to the care rooms during care routines including mealtimes, sleep times and nappy changing.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises.

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

- (h) Details of attendance by each preschool child was recorded accurately on a daily basis.
- (i) Details of staff rosters on a daily basis were available on the day of inspection.
- (k) Ten accident and incident forms were reviewed and were completed in full.

Non-Compliance Information

- (j) On review of ten medication administration forms, the following information was missing:
- No parental pre consent form available for the administration of four prescribed medications
 - Two different types of medication administered completed on one form.
 - One staff signature was missing on one form.
 - Parent signature to acknowledge administration of medication was missing on one form.
 - Surname of children were missing on two forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(j) The medical form has been redesigned in accordance with the latest guidelines. This updated form includes detailed instructions on its necessary use, incorporating new fields that specify the exact dosage, end date, method of administration, times for administration, and the date of the parental phone call authorization. These additions address gaps identified in the previous version of the form, ensuring a comprehensive approach to medication management. The service has revised the Medication Management policy, which has now been distributed to all staff members along with notes that summarize the key points of the new policy.

Additionally, the service has provided staff with a sample of a correctly completed form to serve as a guideline for best practices. To maintain the highest standards of care and compliance, the service will conduct periodic reviews of this policy and ensure that all staff members adhere to the established best practices.

Supporting documentation submitted

(j) Medical consent and administration form and evidence of correspondence to staff submitted.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined above under Regulation 16 has been addressed.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service, the entrance doors were locked and secure.
- The service was observed to be clean and in good repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children.
- The temperature of the care rooms was maintained within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.
- Cleaning products were stored securely and out of reach of children.
- The outdoor area was enclosed securely with an appropriate locking mechanism on the entrance door.
- The outdoor play equipment and materials were observed to be safe and suitable for use by the children.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were available for handwashing.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in line with the service policy.

- Staff and children were observed to wash their hands after outdoor play, before eating, before and after nappy changing and after visiting the toilet.
- The inspector observed that perishable food items for snack times brought from home were refrigerated on arrival to the service.
- Individual bed linen was stored in individual labelled boxes in a press in the designated sleep room.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.

Safe Sleep:

- Children over one but under two were provided with a cot to sleep in, in the designated sleep room.
- Children over two were provided with low beds to sleep in, in the designated sleep room.
- Cellular Blankets were in use for all children when sleeping.
- The cots and low beds used by the children were observed to be suitable and age appropriate.
- All cots and low beds were positioned 50 cms apart while children slept.
- Outdoor clothing was removed from each child before sleep.
- The temperature of the designated sleep room was recorded as 18.8°C at 12.02pm which is within the recommended ambient sleep temperature of 18 - 22 °C, while children over 1 years old sleep.
- 10-minute sleep checks were completed while children slept

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There was no mechanical ventilation in the upstairs sanitary facility, leading to a risk of poor infection control.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Installation of a New Extraction Fan: As a primary corrective measure, the service installed a new ventilation system equipped with an extraction fan, undertaken by a certified electrician. This enhanced system is now fully operational, effectively addressing the critical need for mechanical ventilation. This upgrade significantly contributes to mitigating the risk associated with inadequate infection control measures in the upstairs sanitary facilities.

Regular Maintenance Schedule: The service established a regular maintenance schedule for the ventilation system to prevent future failures. This includes periodic checks and cleaning of the fan, filters, and ductwork.

Training for staff: Recognising the role of the ventilation system in maintaining infection control standards, the service has undertaken an initiative to educate our staff about its importance. Additionally, a poster has been strategically placed in the upstairs toilet facilities as a constant reminder for staff to utilise the mechanical ventilation system. This measure reinforces our commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for both staff and visitors.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic Evidence Submitted

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliance outlined above has been addressed.

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 written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 16th January 2024.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment which were last serviced 3rd March 2023 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 6th February 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the premises