

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL155
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Name of Service:	Little Apples Ltd
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Address of Service:	Applewood Lane, Broad meadow, Swords, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K67 H0F9
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Fay
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	20/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	83	PM	42
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & S Taaffe
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

Little Apples Ltd is a full day care service located in Swords, Co Dublin which is registered to provide preschool care and education to children from 0 to 6 years of age from 7.45am to 6.15pm each weekday. Eligible children are facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme with sessional preschool care provided from 9.00am, 9:15am and 9:30am in the 3 care rooms that provide sessional preschool care. The service is located in a purpose built 2 storey building with 7 care rooms in operation, namely the Junior Wobbler room, Toddler room and Junior Preschool room which are located on the ground floor and the Full day care preschool room and 3 sessional preschool rooms Montessori room 1, Montessori room 2 and Montessori room 3 which are located on the first floor of the service. A separate sleep room is located adjacent to the Junior Wobbler room and an enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service. School aged childcare is provided to children up to the age of 12 years.

Staffing

The service employs 27 staff members including 4 staff members who are employed specifically to work with the children attending the school aged care service. Two managers coordinate the operational management of the service whilst providing support in the care rooms when needed. Ancillary staff members include a chef who prepares and cooks food in the service, a relief chef and a housekeeper who cleans the premises outside of the operational hours of the service. One of the company's directors was present in the service after the inspection had commenced. The registered provider was not present in the service on the day of inspection.

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 regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 24 and 25; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

Following the inspection of the service on the 20/02/2024 the service has been referred to Better Start Quality development service.

The Inspection report was issued to the registered provider on the 06/03/2024.

Following correspondence and reminders to the registered provider the CAPA was received by the Early years inspectorate on the 11/04/2024. As this was insufficient a request for further supportive evidence was issued to the registered provider and the requested information was received by the Early Years Inspectorate on the 24/04/2024.

A factual accuracy submission was received from the registered provider on the 11/04/2024. This submission was not accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the company director, persons in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(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

(1)(a) One of the 2 service managers was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge in the absence of the designed person in charge of the service was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 09:05am, both service managers arrived in the service shortly afterwards.

The files for 29 staff members including the registered provider, company director, both service managers, 4 staff members who provide school aged care, and 3 ancillary staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Two validated written references were available for 24 staff members whose files were reviewed.

One validated written reference was available for 1 staff member.

Two written references were available for 2 staff members.

One written reference was available for 2 staff members.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 29 staff members whose files were reviewed.

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International police vetting was available for 5 staff members who resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 20 staff members whose files were reviewed and who work directly with the children in the service, including the service manager and area manager, held an appropriate childcare qualification at level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)&(b)

One staff member did not have any validated written references on file.

One staff member did not have a second validated written reference on file.

Five references that were on file had no record of validation to demonstrate that they had been verified with the person who provided the reference.

(d) International police vetting was not available for 1 staff member who resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2) (a)&(b) Validate the written references that are not validated.

(d) Follow up on the international police vetting.

Preventive Action

(2) (a)&(b) Ensure all references are fully validated immediately & was also advised to registered provider that any comments in relation to the employee are added to the candidates file after the interview process. Validated references emailed to Tusla Inspector on 11/4/24.

All staff files have been checked to ensure that validated references, garda vetting and police vetting where applicable are held on file in respect of all adults working in the service. Staff files will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the necessary documents as required are held on file.

(d) Ensure that police vetting is done prior to the employee starting. In this case the person has been unable to get police vetting as she did not have a visa or public services number and was on an extended holiday. The employee in question has reached out to the relevant authorities to get further clarification on the situation. Going forward manager will as stated above do an annual review on all staff files, references, garda vetting and police vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

Three validated written references.

Evidence of validation for 5 references.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted the outstanding staff references which were found to be satisfactory. However international police vetting has not been submitted and remains outstanding for one staff member.

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 was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 9.05am and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Junior Wobbler room there were 10 children aged 1 year 1 month to 3 years 1 month attending on a full day and part time basis, being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the Toddler room there were 8 children aged between 2 years 3 months to 3 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Junior Preschool room there were 8 children aged between 2 years 9 months and 3 years 9 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Full day care preschool room, there were 16 children aged between 3 years 5 months and 5 years 2 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Montessori room 1 there were 18 children aged between 3 years 2 months and 5 years 1 month being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Montessori room 2 there were 10 children aged between 3 years 4 months and 4 years 1 month being cared for by 3 staff members. A further staff member employed as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme to support a child with additional needs when required and to reduce the adult to child ratio in this room had been re-assigned to cover staff absence in the Junior Preschool room on the day of inspection.
- In the Montessori room 3 there were 13 children aged between 3 years 2 months to 4 years 9 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

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) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- The service provides all meals and snacks to children attending the service on a full day care basis. The children attending the service on a sessional basis bring their own snack with them from home. The children throughout the service were encouraged to be independent with eating with assistance and support provided as required.
- Nappy changing occurred at scheduled times and more frequently as required throughout the day. Staff members engaged positively with the children during this time using it as an opportunity for one-to-one interactions with the children. Children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently and supported as needed.
- The children in the Junior Wobbler room were placed to sleep in the cot room adjacent to the care room after they had their dinner. Staff members informed the inspector that if children required to sleep outside of this time it was facilitated. This was observed on the day of inspection when a child who had recently commenced in the service was facilitated to sleep in line with the child's home routine. The children in the Toddler room slept on sleep mats on the floor of the Toddler room after they had their dinner.
- Throughout the care rooms staff members were observed to approach the children's behaviour in a positive and calm way and supported the children in developing their problem-solving skills to resolve any conflict that arose between them.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The children were observed to be familiar and comfortable with the staff members throughout all of the care rooms. The staff members were well acquainted with the children and responded quickly to the children's verbal and nonverbal cues, children were spoken to using their first name with appropriate eye contact and soft vocal tones used throughout interactions.
- The staff members in the care rooms were observed to work well together and supported each other in the care of the children and when planning for up-coming activities and preparing materials in readiness. Staff members updated each other on the children's care throughout the day which ensured the children's care needs were met in a timely manner.
- The staff members in the Junior wobbler maintain a record regarding the children's eating, sleeping, toileting and activities throughout the day which they share with parents on a daily basis. Staff members in all of the care rooms were observed interacting with parents at drop off and collection providing verbal updates on their children's daily progress.
- The staff members in the care rooms on the first floor were observed displaying anticipation and appropriate responsiveness when children experienced challenges within the environment and when children chose to change or opt out of activities or seek movement to an alternative environment.

Physical and material environment:

- With the exception of the non-compliances listed below the play materials were stored on low-level shelving which were accessible to the pre-school children in each care room.
- The tables and chairs provided throughout the care rooms were suitable to the age and stage of the children attending the individual care rooms.
- A range of books were available throughout all of the care rooms to support the children's language and reading development.
- An enclosed outdoor area which was subdivided by fencing into different spaces was provided to the rear of the service and was directly accessible from all of the care rooms on the ground floor. The largest area, surfaced in impact-absorbent material contained a plastic playhouse, three slides, self-propel cars, rocking toys and a wall-mounted blackboard. The inspectors were informed that pre-school children did not access the enclosed section covered with bark or the adjoining area set up with raised planting beds. Play equipment provided in the bark-covered section included a wooden climbing frame with slides attached and a basket style swing.

Furthermore, the Full day care preschool room, Montessori 1 and Montessori 2 each had access to enclosed outdoor balcony spaces immediately outside these care rooms on the first floor, each of which were equipped with lidded sand tables, and the Junior Preschool room on the ground floor had access to a small outdoor space outside the care room door.

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and material environment:

1. In the Junior Preschool room 4 shelves containing a variety of play resources and materials were turned towards the wall and were therefore inaccessible to the children. The children had access to one shelving unit only and some books to use. This practice does not facilitate children's choice and independence.
2. The interest areas in the Toddler room and Junior Preschool care rooms were poorly resourced. For example, the kitchens had no associative equipment such as play crockery or cooking utensils for the children to extend their play. Furthermore, the construction area and dolls house in the Toddler room did not have any materials available for the children to extend their play.
3. The home areas in Montessori room 1 and Montessori room 2 had limited supportive play materials available or accessible to the children. This did not support the children in initiating and sustaining role play activities and limited opportunities to stimulate and enhance imaginative play experiences.
4. There was a lack of natural and sensory materials in the care rooms on the ground floor in order to facilitate sensorial play experiences or encourage the children's creativity and imagination. For example, sensory type materials such as sand, water, rice or pasta trays were not available to the children to enjoy sensory experiences in the Junior wobbler room, Toddler room, Junior Preschool room or in the outdoor area of the service.
5. There was an insufficient range of dress-up costumes available in the care rooms to support role play experiences for the children.
6. There was no supportive equipment available at the play kitchen in the outdoor play area directly outside the Junior preschool room to enable the children to extend their play.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Physical and material environment:

Corrective Action

1. Manager spoke to the Junior Pre-school team about the importance of having all the activities and equipment available to all children at all times throughout the day. Staff is working together as a team to encourage full choice and independence within the child's day.

Manager has sent an application in to Better start via the hive to get support in helping the staff understand the importance of providing full opportunities to all children at all times.

2. Service has a huge amount of resources for the Toddler Room and the Junior Preschool Room but they are stored away so manager has implanted a rota system to ensure the children are being exposed to a wide variety of equipment. Manager has asked staff and parents to bring old equipment from home that they no longer use such as pots, wooden spoons, kitchen utensils etc. to help extend the children's learning and experience in the home corner.
3. As with above staff is using a lot more materials from home to help support the children's learning in Montessori Room 1 & 2.
4. There are sand water and sensorial tables available to the ground floor in their spare room on the ground floor. Manager has spoken to all the staff about bringing these tables into the rooms and giving the children the opportunity to access these learning opportunities at all times. These tables will also need to be brought outside at outdoor play time.
5. Service has a large range of children's dress up and costumes which staff has ensured are available at all times in the care room.
6. Manager has added utensils to the outdoor kitchen.

Preventive Action

Rooms will be monitored until such a time that the staff are comfortable, and it becomes the norm to follow the guidance of the Better Start and managers will oversee this and ensure that all recommendations are being taken on board and to consistently increase the use of natural materials in all the rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of play resources and materials in care rooms.

Photographic evidence of improved sensory resources available in service.

Photographic evidence of dress up materials.

Photographic evidence of play materials at play kitchen in outdoor play area.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been reviewed and accepted and will be reviewed at the next inspection of the service. The service has been referred to a quality development service.

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 doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The children's packed lunches, supplied from home, were refrigerated on arrival to the service which reduced the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.
- The outdoor sand pits were fitted with secure lids to prevent contamination by animals and birds.

Safe Sleep:

- All children aged less than 2 years had access to a standard cot to sleep in.
- Ten-minute sleep checks to include the children's colour, breathing and position were conducted on all sleeping children in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for 2 staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

- The staff members in the Junior wobbler room stated that they used a microwave oven to warm children's bottles. This is an inappropriate method of warming milk due to the risk of heating milk unevenly and potential risk of scalding to a preschool child.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water was not available for hand washing at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation on the first floor at all times. The water in both the hot taps and the cold taps felt cold to touch at 2.40pm. Cold water does not support pre-school children to effectively wash their hands.
- Throughout the care rooms of the service and in the sanitary accommodation on the first floor and at times in the nappy changing area on the ground floor the paper towel that was available was not hygienically dispensed. The paper that was provided did not fit the paper dispensers available and could not be freely retrieved from the exit portals and was subject to repeat handling thereby increasing the risk of cross contamination which was inadequate for infection control purposes. This noncompliance was observed at the last inspection of the service on the 25/05/2022.
- There was an increased risk of cross contamination during scheduled nappy changing time in the Junior wobbler room as a number of children were brought to the nappy changing room with 1 staff member available to change and supervise. While the staff member changed a nappy, the inspector observed the waiting children sitting on, crawling and touching the floor. This increases the risk of cross contamination of surfaces and children's hands.
- Handwashing was observed not to be carried out at the following times:
 - The children attending the Toddler and the Junior wobbler room did not have their hands washed after nappy changing.
 - The children attending the Junior wobbler room did not have their hands washed before they ate.
- Staff members were observed to wear seamed polythene gloves for nappy changing, these gloves are not suitable due to the risk of splitting or tearing in addition to not having good barrier properties. This noncompliance was observed at the last inspection of the service on the 25/05/2022.
- Two of the 3 nappy changing mats in the nappy changing area were torn with foam exposed and therefore were unable to be cleaned effectively. The area beneath the nappy changing mats were dusty and dirty.
- The lid on one of the bins in the nappy changing area was broken and was unable to be opened by the foot mechanism resulting in staff members opening the lid using their hands, this increases the risk of cross contamination of staff members hands.

10. The child sized couch in Montessori room 2 was torn along the full seam joining the seat to the back of the couch leaving a large section of the inner foam exposed. This couch was unable to be cleaned effectively and was an infection control risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting has been re- done for the two staff members, one of the staff members is the cleaner and has no interaction or access to the children at any stage but manager has sent in all records to be renewed for their files.
2. A new bottle warmer was purchased for the Pre-school room and staff were informed that they should never use the microwave for heating the bottles.

Infection Control:

3. Cold water repaired.
4. Handtowels replaced in the care rooms and a new system of ordering is in place to ensure that they don't run out going forward.
5. Manager has changed their system of changing nappies and the children are being brought down one at a time to ensure that no one is sitting on the floor.
6. All staff were reminded of the importance of washing the children's hands as well as their own after nappy changing and prior to eating to avoid any cross infection.
7. Gloves were changed to the appropriate seam free gloves.
8. Nappy mats replaced immediately.
9. Bin replaced.
10. The child couch was replaced on 28/2/24.

Preventive Action

All staff files including Garda and Police vetting to be reviewed on an annual basis going forward. A full review of all infection control issues to be done going forward on a monthly basis. At their most recent staff meeting all staff reminded to report any issues they come across throughout the day and report to management to be added to the Hazard list.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Updated Garda vetting disclosures for 2 staff members.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of bottle warmer.

Documentation from plumber indicating works undertaken to correct cold water.

Photograph of the following:

Filled paper towel dispensers.

Appropriate gloves.

New nappy changing mats.

Replacement bin.

Replacement couch.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted.

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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3) (a) All persons other than those listed above in (3)(a)(i) – (iv) were approved access to the service by an employee prior to entry.

(b) Visitor details were entered into the visitors' book, and the inspectors were requested to sign in and out of the service by an authorised employee.

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

(2)(a) & (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was not immediately available to the children attending the service at all times. One member of staff currently holds in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training; however, the staff roster confirmed that the staff member is not always present in the service from opening to closing on a daily basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1) There are currently two staff now with FAR. Manager employed a new member of staff who has her full FAR completed so that is two people trained now. Manager is planning to train one more person on their team in May 2024.

Preventive Action

(1) A Bi- yearly check on all first aid and manual handling certificates to be put in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of in date FAR training for 2 staff members.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has given assurances that there will be a FAR trained person working in the service and that additional staff are to be trained in FAR. This has been accepted by the Inspectorate and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

(b)The building was observed to be safe and secure. Access to the building was gained via an intercom system at two secure doors on the ground floor. This reduced the risk of an unauthorised adult entering the premises or a child leaving the premises unsupervised.

Non-Compliance Information

(c)The nappy changing area and the adjoining corridor on the ground floor was a strong foul odour indicating that the ventilation system in place in the nappy changing room was inadequate.

(d)The registered provider did not ensure that the premises was being maintained in an appropriate condition as evidenced by the following:

1. A section of the wooden moulding located between the wooden floor and the skirting board in the Toddler room was cracked and damaged and could potentially pose a splinter risk to children who may be playing on the floor.
2. The area adjacent to the wall mounted paper towel dispenser in the nappy changing area had wall plugs and screw holes visible.
3. The outer veneer was peeling on a number of cupboard doors under the wash hand basins in the larger sanitary facilities on the first floor leaving the inner pulp fibres exposed. These surfaces could not be adequately cleaned.

4. The floor covering at the base of a number of step risers on the stairs was torn and in a defective condition. These surfaces could not be adequately cleaned, and dust had accumulated in the cracks.
5. A significant amount of the veneer surface of one of the tables in the Junior preschool room was missing with the woodchip exposed beneath it which could not be cleaned effectively. This is an infection control risk.
6. On the countertop in the nappy changing room on the ground floor excess silicone was present which created an environment that could harbour germs and therefore posed an infection control risk.
7. The inner surface of the counter rim in the nappy changing room was exposed chipboard which was observed to be flaking and crumbling in places. This area was unable to be cleaned effectively and was an infection control risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c) The fan was thoroughly cleaned.

(d)

1. The damaged wooden mounding was removed and replaced.
2. The wall plugs and screw holes were plastered over.
3. The cupboard doors were stripped down and treated and replaced,
4. The stairs were fixed.
5. Table removed and replaced on 21/2/24.
6. The excess silicone was removed.
7. The chipboard was repaired.

Preventive Action

(c) The fan to be checked on a weekly basis as part of our risk assessments.

(d) Manager has reviewed their hazard lists and is going to review on a weekly basis going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was received of all works undertaken:

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 29 - Premises has been reviewed and accepted.