

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL160					
Name of Service:	Little Caterpillars Pre-school					
Address of Service:	Fingallians GAA Club Seatown West Lissenhall Swords Co. Dublin					
Email Address:	littlecaterpillars@outlook.ie					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Maria Butler					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	2	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	16				
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	C. Murrin Early Years Inspector					

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
REF: EYIRIRSESS03-2017 : Version 12: Mar 2021
1.0

Description of Service	<p>Little Caterpillars was established in 2013 and has been operated by the registered provider in this setting since April 2015. This pre-school service is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 pre-school children aged 2.5 to 5 years on a sessional basis. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 09.15 to 12.15hrs each weekday, with an option for pre-school children to avail of an extra 30 minutes from 12.15 to 12.45hrs for an additional fee.</p>
Premises	<p>The service is conducted from a room on the first floor of Fingallian’s GAA clubhouse which is located in an urban setting in North County Dublin. The service has access to a fully enclosed and gated all weather pitch in the grounds of the clubhouse. A second partially enclosed smaller athletics pitch is also available in the grounds of the service which can be enclosed with temporary fencing if used by the pre-school service.</p>
Staffing	<p>The registered provider and 3 staff members (2 work in a job sharing capacity) work directly with the children. All staff who work directly with the preschool children hold a major award in Early Childhood Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>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.</p>

GOVERNANCE

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) Following a review of the staff files and a discussion with the service manager, it was confirmed that no new members of staff were employed since the last inspection. The staff files were reviewed at the last inspection and met the requirements of Regulation 9(2) (a), (b), (c) and (d)

(4) All of the adults working directly with the children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) The adult/child ratio was correct, there were 3 adults caring directly for the 16 pre-school children present (aged 3 - 5 years).

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.

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- Children's behaviour was managed in a respectful and positive way with minor problems handled promptly. The staff members were observed to respect the maturity and level of understanding of the individual children.
- The children were given sufficient time to relax and enjoy their snack and were assisted by staff as required.
- Self toileting was facilitated with assistance from the adults as required.
- A suitable comfortable area was available to the children for rest and relaxation if required.
- Warm and positive interactions were observed between the staff members and children throughout the inspection.
- Hand washing was facilitated before eating and following toileting and outdoor play.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The care room was adequately resourced with developmentally appropriate play materials and toys and laid out with a number of defined interest areas e.g., reading area, dress up and home area including dolls and kitchen area with supporting equipment. Blocks, shapes and sorters were available to help develop the children's manipulation skills.
- A range of books were available in the reading area which supported children's language and development.
- The children were provided with suitable low level tables and chairs.
- The children engaged in outdoor play at the time of inspection.

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:

- All internal door to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The outdoor play area was secure and fully enclosed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- Radiators were covered by fixed guards.
- Play materials, toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children attending the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Hand washing was facilitated before eating and following toileting and outdoor play.
- The play equipment, toys and materials were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition
- Documented up to date cleaning schedules/ records were available in line with COVID – 19 guidance.
- Ventilation was provided in the preschool by way of open windows.
- Perishable snacks for the children were stored in a refrigerator.

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 paediatric-specific first aid was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and safely stored in a readily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises.
- (b) A first aid box was available in the pre-school service at all times.

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

the premises

Compliance Information:	<p>(1)(a) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 26/01/2022.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.</p>
Non-Compliance Information:	<p>(b) There was no maintenance record by an authorised person of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the service.</p>
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p>Evidence of servicing of the fire extinguishers in the service dated 17/02/2022 was submitted on 18/02/2022.</p> <p>Evidence of servicing of the smoke alarms in the service dated July 2021 was submitted on 06/05/2022.</p> <p>No preventive actions were included in the submitted CAPA.</p>
Summary Comment:	<p>The corrective actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances pertaining to Regulation 26. The registered provider must ensure that all fire fighting equipment and smoke detectors are serviced on an annual basis and that a record of servicing is available for inspection.</p>