

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL192		
Name of Service:	Little Stars Scoil Bhride Boys		
Address of Service:	Scoil Bhride Boys, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D15 Y592		
Name of Registered Provider:	Katarzyna Wlodarska		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	01/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin , Dublin 15 D15 CF9K		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte		
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

Little Stars Scoil Bhríde Boys is a sessional preschool service catering to children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years. The service is one of seven services owned by the registered provider. The service operates from 9:10am-12:10pm Monday to Friday catering to maximum of 22 children and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service operates from a large care room within the grounds of Scoil Bhríde Boys. The service has two toilets located within the care room. The service has access to a large enclosed outdoor area within the school grounds.

The service also operates a registered School Age Service in the afternoon.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection the area manager was present with one staff member and one student on work experience. The registered provider employs a total of three staff who work directly with the children including the person in charge and area manager.

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, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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

(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

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
(b) The person in charge was not available on the day of the inspection. The area manager named to deputise was present when the inspector arrived and throughout the inspection.

- (2) The files of three adults and the student were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
 - (a) Six validated written references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Two written validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of all three adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

- (4) The three adults employed by the registered provider who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration 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.

(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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection the registered provider ensured there was an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service.

(3) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Age group	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
3-5 years	10	2	1

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 furniture provided in the room was low level and suitable for the children attending the service. The equipment was displayed on low level shelving visible to children allowing them to independently choose and access their activity.
- The room was divided into clearly defined areas of interest, including construction areas to facilitate physical and cognitive play, mark making areas to facilitate fine motor and cognitive development, home areas with associated props to facilitate role play and imaginative play experiences, natural materials including stones, pinecones and wood pieces were observed supporting exploration. Other equipment available to the children included jigsaws, musical instruments, playdough, and small world play equipment which facilitated creative play experiences.
- The equipment and materials were observed to be well-maintained.
- The large outdoor play area was securely fenced and had a synthetic grass surfacing. Although equipment could not be stored in the area staff advised how resources are brought outside for the children when playing in the area.
- The person in charge also showed the inspector a large indoor sports hall with hula-hoops, gym mats, benches, and footballs and advised the children use the space regularly and particularly on days with poor weather.

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 service entrance was observed to be secure. Staff attended the door to allow access.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children.
- Daily risk assessments were available and completed up to date for the service including the sanitary area, care room and outdoor area.
- Windows were appropriately secured with safety latch.

Infection Control:

- Warm water and soap were available in the sanitary area to support adequate hand hygiene. Staff were observed encouraging children to wash their hands before lunchtime and after using the bathroom.
- Staff disinfected the tables following lunchtime.
- Perishable food items were stored appropriately, and an up-to-date cleaning record was available for the fridge.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

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) The registered provider provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in a conspicuous position on the premises.

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 the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of fire drill which occurred on a monthly basis.
- (b) A record of the maintenance of smoke alarms and fire extinguishers was reviewed as part of the inspection. The record showed that the smoke alarms and extinguishers were last serviced on 31st July 2023.
- (4) A notice detailing the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency was clearly displayed in the care room.