

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



Tusla Identifier: TU2015FL334

Name of Service: Tyrrelstown Little Stars @ Gaelscoil

Address of Service: Gaelscoil an Chulinn,
Powerstown Road,
Tyrrelstown,
Dublin 15.

Email Address: tyrrelstowncreche@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms. Ewa Hetnal

Type of Service Registered: Part-Time

Date(s) of Inspection: 0 3 1 2 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 15

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child and Family Agency
Heuston South Quarter,
St John's Rd W,
Kilmainham,
Dublin 8

Inspection undertaken by: Ms. Á Dunne
Title: 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 N/A



TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	This service has recently relocated to Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15. The service offers a part-time and sessional service Monday to Friday to children aged between 2 to 5 years. A school age service is also provided.
Premises	The service is located in one classroom within the Gaelscoil. The classroom had sanitary facilities attached to the room. The children have access to a secure area in the school yard for outdoor play.
Staffing	On the day of inspection there were three adults present including the registered provider, person in charge and one staff member. All three adults were working directly with the children.
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. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, Person in Charge, the staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) Three staff files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.
- (a) Six references were available from previous employers
 - (b) Not applicable as no references were from a source other than from a previous employer.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available for three staff members.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.
- (4) Three childcare staff members working directly with the children 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.
- (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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were three adults working with fifteen children aged between 2-5 years of age.
- (2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times.
- (8)(a) Not applicable as two adults are available within the service at all times.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

- The children brought their own lunches consisting of fruit, yogurts, sandwiches and crackers, on the day of inspection, the inspectors observed children having lunch 10.40am.
- Drinks provided from home were available to the children throughout the session.
- A couch was present for relaxation and rest when required by the children.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Throughout the morning the staff demonstrated kindness towards the children, by calling children by their names and using positive language when speaking to the children.
- The service's communication with parents is completed by daily written reports, newsletter issued every two months and verbally at drop off and collection times.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	<p>Physical and material environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enclosed outdoor play area was available and part of the school yard. • Outdoor games were painted on the ground of the play area for example, snakes and ladders and a number square which were available for the children to engage in. The inspector observed games initiated both by the children and by the staff including football and parachute play, supporting the development of each child. • The children had access to outdoor play during the inspection as per service policy. • Child sized age-appropriate tables and chairs were provided in the pre-school room. • Materials and equipment present included playdough, building blocks, pegs and peg boards, animals, dinosaurs, books, a shop area with real-life items such as cereal boxes and containers. • Artwork was displayed on the walls, for example winter scenes, winter hats, Christmas wreaths and Christmas trees art activities.
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>Basic needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The children ate their lunch at 10.40am and the registered provider confirmed that no other food is offered to the three children in attendance part-time, between 9.15am-1.15pm. As per the food and nutrition guidelines, a part-time service should provide two meals and one snack. 2. Transition to outdoor play was not appropriately planned. The outdoor area is shared with the school, and on the day of inspection, there were other children from the school using the area. From 11.10am to 11.20am. the pre-school children were observed to stand and wait at the door of the care-room to go outside until outdoor area was available. 3. Between 11.40am and 12.25pm, a programme of activities was not in place to encourage children to engage. The following was observed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 11.50am, one child sat at a table with no available activity to complete. • At 12.00pm one child sat under a table with no available activity to complete. • Between 11.45am and 12.10, one boy looked for a book to be read to him which was interrupted numerous times for the staff member to address other issues arising during this unstructured time, the book was read to the child 30 minutes later. <p>Physical and material environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The areas of interest within the classroom were poorly defined for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The play kitchen had no supporting play food or play delph directly available. • There were train tracks present, however, no supporting materials available.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a castle present, and no supporting materials. • While dolls were available, these were stored in a box with no supporting materials available.
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p><u>Corrective action</u></p> <p>Basic needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The children staying in the service until 1.15pm normally bring in larger lunches to have later. Alongside the extra snack children bring in, the service will also offer an additional opportunity for lunch for those children staying till 1.15pm to meet the food and nutrition guidelines. 2. On the day of inspection, the school ran over their allotted garden time slot which delayed our class going to the garden. The service were informed on the day by the school that there would be a delay. During this wait the children played Simon says and head, shoulders, knees and toes. The principal of the school was contacted in relation to the overlap. 3. On the day of the inspection, the service had two staff members absent and relief staff in to cover. This in turn impacted the routine of the setting. 4. The daily routine had been altered to ensure that there are minimum gaps between transitions and activities to allow for enriched learning environment and experience for the children attending. <p>Physical and material environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. The classroom environment and areas of interest have been reviewed, restructured, and defined. Further resources and materials have been added and updated to promote development, encourage play and link in with the needs and interest's children. <p><u>Preventive action</u></p> <p>Basic needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alongside the extra snack children bring in, the service will also offer an additional opportunity for lunch for those staying till 1.15pm to meet the food and nutrition guidelines. An email has been sent to parents relating to additional snack. 2. To ensure this does not occur again the principal has assured the service that we will notified of any delays and that the teachers will be reminded of their garden time slot. (See email of correspondence attached). 3. The daily routine of the class is clearly displayed on the wall for the children and will be reviewed regularly to ensure meets the needs of the children attending. <p>Physical and material environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The learning environment will be reviewed and reflected on a regular basis to ensure children's needs and interest are supported. This will be documented using the Aistear self-evaluation tool.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	<p>Evidence submitted</p> <p>Basic needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Email sent to parents relating to additional snack submitted. 2. Email of correspondence between Registered Provider and Principal submitted. 3. Copy of Daily Routine submitted. <p>Physical and material environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Photographic Evidence and the Aistear Self Evaluation tool submitted.
Summary Comment	Regulation 19. Health, welfare and development of child requirements have been met by the corrective and preventative actions and evidence submitted.

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:	<p>General safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service had a secure entrance area to facilitate the supervised entrance and exit of visitors and children. • Cleaning materials were appropriately stored away out of reach of children. <p>Infection control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunches were stored in a fridge prior to break time. • The inspector observed the isolation area identified and supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) present in a packed bag in the service and staff demonstrated their knowledge of the procedure through discussion with the inspector. • Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels. • Bins were provided for the disposal of wastepaper. • Windows were open in the care rooms allowing for the circulation of air. • The inspector observed the registered provider and staff member ensured that daily cleaning was undertaken during the morning where tables were cleaned before and after lunch time, reducing the risk of the spread of infection.
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<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Children were not consistently assisted by staff to maintain hand hygiene at the relevant times throughout the inspection as per the service policy. While it is acknowledged that fifteen children were observed to wash their hands before lunchtime at 10.40am, the following was observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One child sneezed at 11.10am and was not invited or assisted to wash their hands. Six children did not wash their hands after outdoor play when children returned directly to the classroom at 11.40 am, One child did not wash their hands after using the toilet at 11.50am. At Lunch time at 10.45am, two children were observed to eat their lunch directly off the table and thirteen children were observed to directly from plastic bags or lunchboxes. Toilet paper was not accessible in one the children’s sanitary facilities of the service. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The attendance records were not reflective of the children present. The following was observed – at 11.05am, fifteen children were present, however, there were only seven signed in. This increased the potential risk of the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p>Corrective action</p> <p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the upcoming staff meeting the staff will complete infection control refresher training. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> On the day of inspection, the staff did not observe the child sneezing on the day. The children within the service are encouraged to undertake in hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette. The Service has a hygiene area within the classroom that easily accessible to all children. The transition between outdoors and returning indoors has been reviewed and changed to allow for a more smooth and structured routine and allow for closely monitoring and assisting with hand washing coming from outdoors and at toileting time. The children will be ticked off on the daily sheet as they wash their hands returning from the garden. This will ensure that all children are captured. As additional measure hand sanitizer has also been added to the garden supply bag, which can be used on the children’s hand prior to going indoors. Plastic plates will be provided to the children who have their lunch in Ziploc bags at lunch time.

	<p>3. Regular checks of the toileting areas will take place throughout the day, soap and toilet paper replenished when required. This will be documented using the hourly toilet checklist and the toilet cleaning chart.</p> <p>Fire Safety:</p> <p>4. On the day of the inspection, we had two staff members absent and relief staff in to cover. The service has a system in place where staff member is responsible for filling in the attendance records each day. In the instance that nominated staff member responsible for the role book is absent a designated person has been arranged.</p> <p>Preventive action</p> <p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The transition between outdoors and returning indoors continuously reviewed to allow for a more smooth and structured routine and allow for closely monitoring and assisting with hand washing coming from outdoors and at toileting time. The children will be ticked off on the daily sheet as they wash their hands returning from the garden. In the upcoming staff meeting the staff will complete infection control refresher training. 2. Children will be offered plastic plates for their lunch. 3. Our cleaning chart and hourly check list has been updated to ensure that toileting materials are regularly checked, monitored, and replenished. <p>Fire Safety:</p> <p>4. The service will continue with the system of having a staff member responsible for filling in the attendance records which will reduce potential risk of safely evacuating the children in the event of an emergency fire.</p> <p>Evidence submitted</p> <p>Infection control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photographic Evidence submitted 2. Photographic Evidence submitted 3. Toilet hourly check and toilet cleaning chart submitted <p>Fire Safety :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Photographic Evidence of the Attendance books submitted
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances and Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child requirements have been met by the corrective and preventative actions and evidence submitted.</p>

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:	<p>(1) One staff member was qualified in first aid responder for children, expiring 9th November 2023 and is available on the premises at all times.</p> <p>(2) (a) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position accessible to both care rooms inspected</p> <p>(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for use by the adults in the event of an emergency was available to the children in the service.</p>
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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:	<p>(1)(a) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 17th November 2021.</p> <p>(b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment was last serviced in July 2021 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 24th August 2021.</p> <p>(4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the premises and observed by the Inspector.</p>
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