

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH072
Name of Service:	Peter Pan Crèche & Montessori
Address of Service:	Ivy House, William St, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Eircode:	A92 AY24
Name of Registered Provider:	Adrienne O'Neill
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
Date 1 of Inspection:	10/04/2024
Date 2 of Inspection:	11/04/2024

No of pre-school children, day 1:	AM	51	PM	29
No of pre-school children, day 2:	AM	53	PM	-

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Taaffe and S. Cully
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

Peter Pan Crèche and Montessori is one of two early years services operated by the registered provider in Drogheda with this service located in the centre of town. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 65 pre-school children from 1 to 6 years of age on a sessional, part-time and full day care basis, in addition to school age children up to 12 years of age. The service operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday with eligible pre-school children facilitated to participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am – 12.00midday during term-time for 38 weeks each year. The service is conducted over 4 floors in a converted detached house built in the early 1800s with exterior steps leading from street-level to the service's front door and entrance hallway. The Baby Room and Montessori Room 1 are located off the front hallway on the ground floor, with the Wobbler Room provided on the first floor and Pre-school Room 1 and Pre-school Room 2 operated from the second floor. Montessori Room 2 is located in the basement which is accessed through two separate flights of exterior stone steps provided to the front and side of the building. Montessori Room 2 consists of two rooms divided by a hallway which are operated interchangeably as one space. A separate smaller room set up for small group activity in the basement is also provided and used by the children attending Montessori Room 2. Ancillary accommodation includes an office on the first floor and also in the basement, a kitchen at ground floor level and sanitary accommodation on the ground floor, the first floor and in the basement. An outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a manager to oversee the day to day operation of the service on a full-time basis. The manager has responsibility for a team of 14 staff members, 12 of whom provide direct care to the pre-school children, one who is employed in a full-time capacity to prepare meals and snacks and one who is employed in a part-time capacity to clean the service outside of operational hours. The registered provider, the service manager and all staff members employed to care for the pre-school children in this service hold a major award in early years care and education at Level 5 – 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or an equivalent award.

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, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 28; however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – record of pre-school child and regulation 16(1)(j)(k) – record in relation to pre-school service.

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.

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 manager was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 9.10am on the first day of inspection and announced at 9.55am on the second day of inspection. The service manager was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

All staff files were reviewed. These consisted of 20 files maintained in respect of the registered provider, for 15 staff members employed to care for pre-school children in this service or who attend occasionally in a relief capacity from the registered provider's second early years service located locally, for the staff member who engages in cooking and catering duties, for 2 students who were present in the service on the days of inspection

and for an external contractor who delivers an activity programme to the children in the service on a scheduled basis.

(2)(a)(b) There were 2 written, validated references available for the 20 adults whose files were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 20 adults whose files were reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available as required for 4 adults who had lived outside the State as adults for more than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider and all 15 staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

Documentary evidence was available of the policies, procedures and statements of the pre-school service. These were available in hard copy and were available and accessible to staff and parents.

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 days 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 on the first day of inspection and announced on the second day of inspection and remained correct throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed when the highest numbers of children were present in each care room during the inspection:

- In the Baby Room there were 4 children aged 1 year 4 months to 2 years being cared for by 1 staff member. In addition, a third level student was present in this room on the days of inspection, being facilitated to work under supervision in a supernumerary capacity, as part of an early years work experience placement.
- In the Wobbler Room there were 6 children aged 2 years 4 months to 3 years 2 months being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In Montessori Room 1 there were 7 children aged 3 years 1 months to 3 years 11 months being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In Pre-school Room 1 were 8 children aged 3 years 2 months to 4 years being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In Pre-school Room 2 there were 9 children aged 3 years 4 months to 4 years 11 months being cared for by 2 staff members. The second staff member in this room was employed to reduce the adult to child ratio to support children with additional needs, when necessary, as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.
- In Montessori Room 2 there were 17 children aged 3 years 7 months to 4 years 1 month being cared for by 2 staff members. In addition, a third level student was present in this room on the days of inspection, being facilitated to work under supervision in a supernumerary capacity, as part of an early years work experience placement.

The service manager provided relief and support in the care rooms during the inspection including break cover and cover for nappy changing when required.

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

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) A sampling process was used in relation to the children's records. Fourteen of the 16 sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3) The children's records were available and open for review by the inspectors as authorised persons.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i) Written parental consent was not provided on two registration forms to authorise staff members avail of appropriate medical treatment for these children in the event of an emergency. It is acknowledged that parental consent for medical treatment was obtained in respect of these two children following the inspection, as evidenced in completed registration forms submitted to the Inspectorate on 12/04/2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been carried out:

Corrective Action

(1)(i) Parents were contacted in relation to medical treatment authorisation, forms were signed and parents were informed about the importance of consent for medical treatment.

Preventive Action

(1)(i) Going forward all new registration forms will be double checked to make sure parents have signed all areas of the form. The following statement has also been included in the service's medical treatment authorisation forms: If parental consent is not given for medical treatment your child will be unable to attend.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Copies of the two relevant registration forms appropriately completed with the required parental consent.

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider following the inspection. The non-compliance observed under Regulation 15(1)(i) has been adequately addressed.

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:

- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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

- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10. These were provided both in hard copy and in electronic format on the premises. Relevant policies were shared digitally with parents in conjunction with the service’s welcome pack.
- (h) Details of children’s daily attendance including arrival and departure times were recorded on attendance records in each care room.
- (i) An up-to-date weekly staff roster was available, and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis. The records included each staff members’ arrival, departure, and break times.
- (j) There was evidence of appropriate record keeping in relation to medication administered in the service as evidenced in 24 sampled medication administration forms.
- (k) The service had a record in writing of accidents, injuries and incidents involving children during their attendance in the service. Twenty-eight of these records were sampled and each included parental signatures to document that the relevant parents had been informed and were aware of any such events that had occurred.

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:

- Throughout the inspection the early years practitioners were observed providing attentive care and nurturing interactions with the children. When inspectors arrived, the children in all rooms were engaged in play and activities that sustained children's interest with support by practitioners who sat close to them encouraging discussion and exploration.
- The service's ethos, environments and practices supported children to feel safe and secure. The rooms felt warm and inviting with photographs of the children and their families displayed. Children's emerging interests were recorded and on display to support practitioners in planning activities and environments that would reflect the children's identity. In the Baby Room, the practitioners described a child-centred settling in policy that includes parents being encouraged to spend time in the service with new children. Throughout the service, all staff spoke about the children positively and demonstrated their familiarity of children's needs, preferences and personalities through their practice and conversations with inspectors.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a social experience for the children. Children were given time and space to sit and chat together while eating, and the practitioners sat with children to chat or provide assistance when needed. Breakfast, snacks, and hot meals are provided on-site for children attending the service on a full-time basis. Children attending on a sessional basis only bring packed lunches from home. Drinking water was available and accessible to the children in all rooms.
- The children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as required. The practitioners used the opportunity to engage warmly with the children chatting and singing with them. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently and gently reminded to wash their hands afterwards. The practitioners were attentive to children's personal care

needs such as providing younger children with bibs when eating, cleaning noses and faces when required and ensuring children were dressed appropriately indoors and outdoors.

- The children in the Baby Room were facilitated to sleep in the care room after their lunch after practitioners prepared either cots or floor beds depending on children's age. Children in the Wobbler Room were also facilitated to sleep in their room after lunch. Older children from Pre-school rooms and Montessori rooms who required a sleep were facilitated to do so on floor beds set up in Montessori Room 1. Each care room also had spaces for rest through the provision of either small sofas or chairs, floor rugs and cushions.
- All children in the service were observed to spend time outdoors on the day of inspection. The children from the Baby Room were provided with overalls so that they could spend time outdoors even following rainfall.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Throughout the service the staff were observed to use appropriate language and gentle tones of voices when speaking with the children. Children were provided with encouragement and positive feedback on a regular basis and were provided with comfort and reassurance when needed. When minor issues arose for the children, the staff were observed to use conflict resolution approaches and re-direction to support them in resolving issues or to support pro-social behaviours in line with the service policy.
- The children and staff appeared to be comfortable and familiar with one another, including the service manager who supported lunch breaks and relief cover during nappy changing. The cook also came to rooms to drop off snack and meals and collect used cutlery. The children called the staff by name and interacted with all staff, including those who were not their key caregiver, with ease and enthusiasm.
- Staff demonstrated effective teamwork and communicated together well throughout the day to ensure consistency of care to the children. The service manager was responsive to the needs of the staff in terms of providing relief cover for staff to meet children's personal care needs or preparing the sleep room in advance of nap time.
- In the Baby Room and the Wobbler Room a written record of the children's meals, activities, general wellbeing, sleep, nappy changes or use of the toilet and medication administered, if relevant, was maintained for the children on a daily basis and these records were provided to the parents when the children were being collected from the service.

Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms were bright and inviting, with play materials organised and labelled on low level shelving to support children’s emergent play and independent choices. The children were observed to navigate their environments with ease and familiarity, recalling where to find certain items and choosing and returning materials.
- Each care room consisted of clearly defined and labelled interest areas to facilitate meaningful self-directed play and extend children’s learning. These interest areas included well developed home corners, construction corners, art and craft stations, sensory play stations, small world play, reading areas, and tabletop activity areas. The Pre-school rooms and Montessori rooms also had a variety of Montessori resources available. The care rooms also were decorated with soft furnishings such as fairy lights, plants and drapery.
- Throughout the service sensory play experiences were facilitated indoors and outdoors with tray-top activity tables filled with a range of sensorial materials including sand and water.
- A spacious outdoor area was available on the premises and was divided into 3 spaces, 2 of which were covered to provide shelter. The main open and uncovered space had an impact absorbing surface with equipment available such as a climbing frame with slide, a playhouse, wall mounted activity boards, seesaw, ride along toys and bikes, an outdoor kitchen and flowerbeds. One enclosed and covered area was named the ‘Baby Area’ where age-appropriate equipment for younger children was available such as small playhouse, rockers, teepee, small slide, easel and a wall mounted music wall. The second enclosed and covered area named the ‘Undercover Area’ had a construction area with gravel and large toy trucks, sensory tray with interconnecting blocks provided, storage for tabletop activities, table and chairs, a sand tray and a large ‘four in a row’ game.

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 warm water temperature in the sanitary accommodation did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C which reduced the risk of scalding for the children.

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely on high shelving out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children on the day of inspection.

Infection Control:

- Suitable disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being used and disposed of by staff members after each individual nappy change. Staff members washed their own hands and supported the children to wash their hands after each nappy change. Additionally, the children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet, and after outdoor and messy play.
- Thermostatically controlled running warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were provided at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation of the service.
- Soothers were individually labelled and stored in personalised lidded containers when not in use.
- Pedal operated lidded nappy bins were provided for the disposal of nappies which reduced the risk of cross-infection.
- Children's bedlinen was laundered weekly off-site and stored in individual ziplocked bags.
- The outdoor sand pits were fitted with a secure lid to prevent contamination by animals and birds.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- All children aged less than 2 years slept in a standard cot on the day of inspection. Based on an examination of the children's attendance records maintained in the service, all children under 2 years of age had access to a standard cot on a daily basis.
- In discussion with the inspector, staff members described safe sleep practices. The records indicated and staff members reported that sleep checks were carried out and documented at 10 minutes intervals, noting the child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

Fire Safety:

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Some staff members were vague in their knowledge of appropriate procedures in relation to the management of soothers and mouthed toys to reduce the risk of infection and cross contamination. One staff member stated that boiling water was poured over soothers and another member of staff stated that they used sterilising fluid but did not describe appropriate dilution and use of the sterilising fluid to affectively sterilise soothers. An appropriate means of sterilising soothers was not observed in the service nor was there a policy available for the management of soothers and mouthed toys, to guide appropriate practice. It is acknowledged that the service submitted evidence that a microwave soother steriliser had been purchased for the service on 12/04/2024.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been carried out:

Corrective Action

1. A staff meeting was held on 15/04/2024 and all staff have been informed about the importance of managing soothers and mouthed toys to reduce infection and cross contamination. This has also been included in the service's policy.

Preventive Action

1. A new portable microwave steriliser was purchased on 12/04/2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

- A photograph of a new portable microwave steriliser provided in the service.
- Copies of the service's updated mouthed toy policy and soother policy.

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider following the inspection. The non-compliance observed under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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) The service maintained accurate details of all children in attendance during the inspection. The children were entered as present in attendance records in each care room noting each child's arrival and departure time on a daily basis.

(3)(a)(b) A system was in place to ensure that no person other than the children and their parents or guardians, employees, approved students or authorised visitors could enter the service. A visitor's book was maintained and on arrival to the service on both days of inspection the inspectors were requested to record their attendance on the premises and the purpose of their visit.

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) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in the care rooms and the main office and these were stored in accessible and conspicuous locations out of the reach of children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) Based on a review of staff first aid qualifications and the staff roster, it was evident that a person who had undertaken first aid response (FAR) training was not available to the children attending the service at all times. Although 2 staff members held in-date FAR training, the staff roster indicated that from 2.15 – 6.00pm on 09/04/2024 and 12/04/2024, from 5.15 – 6.00pm on 08/04/2024, 10/04/2024 and 11/04/2024 and from 8.00 – 8.15am each morning from 08/04/2024 to 12/04/2024, none of the rostered staff members held FAR training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been carried out:

Corrective Action

(1) The management team are currently sourcing first aid courses.

Preventive Action

(1) The staff rota will be managed on a weekly basis to ensure a FAR-trained member of staff is on the premises at all times.

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the inspection in relation to Regulation 25(1). Assurances given by the registered provider have been accepted and this will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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) A record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Based on the records maintained and as reported by staff members, fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 15/03/2024.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced on 03/10/2023 and the smoke detection system on 22/01/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 65 children attending the service on a full day care basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 27/03/2025.

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,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained, and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

(b) The service was secure with the entrance doors kept closed and latched at all times when not in use during the inspection to ensure that the children could not exit the service unsupervised and that unauthorised adults could not gain access to the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) In the uncovered section of the outdoor area, there was a fixed activity board that was damaged as the veneer surface had worn away in parts leaving segregated edges of exposed wood. In the 'Baby Area' of the outdoor space, the veneer surface at the end of the slide's wooden edges was also damaged leaving exposed wood. These damaged pieces of equipment increased the likelihood of injury through splinters or cuts to children's hands. There was evidence in the service that the registered provider had been engaging with the suppliers of this equipment for some time seeking to have them repaired but this remained outstanding on the days of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following corrective actions and preventive actions have been carried out:

Corrective Action

(d) A specialist sports and play equipment company has been contacted to remove and replace the top unit. The part will be shipped on 20th May and installed on 27th May 2024.

Preventive Action

(d) The playground and equipment will be checked every morning before the children go out to play.

Supporting documentation submitted

- An estimate from a specialist sports and play equipment company detailing the cost of repairing the outdoor play equipment.
- Photographs were submitted to the Inspectorate on 07/06/2024 showing that the outdoor play equipment had subsequently been repaired.

Summary Comment

The inspectors reviewed the corrective actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider following the inspection. The non-compliance observed under Regulation 29(d) has been adequately addressed.