

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW200				
Name of Service:	Little Rascals Creche				
Address of Service:	Little Bray Resource & Development Centre, New Ard Chualann, Fassaroe, Bray, Co. Wicklow				
Eircode:	A98 VH99				
Name of Registered Provider:	Denise Johnston				
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional, Drop-In				
Date of Inspection:	13/12/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>8</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

Description of service

Little Rascals Creche first opened in 1986. It is a part-time and sessional service and is operated as a non-profit based childcare service and operates from a single room within a resource centre located in a housing estate in Bray Co. Wicklow. The service registered to provide care and education for children aged between 0 and six years of age. The service is open Monday to Thursday 09.30am to 05.00pm and 09.30am to 01.00pm on Friday, this includes a sessional service in the morning and a sessional service in the afternoon. The service can accommodate one drop-in childcare place if required. The service does not run an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and does not operate a full-time service.

Staffing

There are four staff members currently employed in the service and three staff were present 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.

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 registered provider, 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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

A total of four staff are employed in the pre-school service, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The registered provider was present on the day of inspection and a named person was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

The management structure within the service was clear as were the responsibilities of each employee.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of four adults.

(c)

Completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for four adults employed.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

Four members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher 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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the Creche service.

(2)
There were three adults employed and present with eight children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)
There were two adults present on the premises throughout the inspection and this was confirmed by the staff roster.

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.*

(2) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of 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 particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).

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

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing of the above list of particulars, was kept in respect of each child attending the pre-school service.

- (2)
The registered provider had a record in writing of each child attending in a drop of capacity containing the particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).
- (3)(c)
The registered provider ensured that these records were available for inspection to an authorised person.
- (5)
The registered provider had evidence that all children’s records were kept for a period of 2 years from the time a child started at the Creche.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The Creche provide all the food for the children attending the service. The food provided was in line with the Healthy Eating policy of the Creche and the children were offered more food if they required it. The Creche only serve water or milk for the children to drink. Fresh drinking water was available for the children throughout the morning.

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 door to the service was appropriately secured to prevent the pre-school children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room.
- The cleaning agents were stored within a designated area out of the reach of the children.
- The entire outdoor area was fenced in and gated to prevent a child gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other sources of danger.

- The outdoor area was suitable, safe and secure.

Infection Control:

- A cleaning schedule for the pre-school room was available and maintained.
- The pre-school room had access to a suitable sanitary area, with a toilet, a sink, warm running water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins, for the safe disposal of used hand towels, by both adults and children. There was a separate, suitable nappy changing area for children who are not yet toilet trained.
- Hand sanitiser gel was available in the pre-school room and throughout the service.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed before snack time and after using the toilet. Child friendly signs were located within the room to encourage adults and children alike to effectively wash their hands.

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.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out daily.

(3)(a)

The registered provider ensured that no other person than the approved list (i)-(iv) was allowed access to the service.

(b)

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of any such person entering the premises.

(4)

The registered provider ensured that the records referred to in (3)(b) were retained for a period of one year from the date to which they related.

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 staff member trained in FAR first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the Creche service.

(2)(a)

A well-equipped first aid box was easily accessible and in a conspicuous position in the Creche room.

(b)

The first aid box was always available to the children attending the service.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the premises and the last fire drill took place on the 23rd of November 2023.

(b)

There was a maintenance record available for the firefighting equipment dated the 4th of April 2023 and the smoke detection system dated the 22nd of April 2023.

(2)(c)

The records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were clearly displayed in the Creche room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had employed sufficient staff to ensure the children attending the Creche were supervised continuously throughout the hours of service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that there was adequate insurance in place for the children attending the service.
The insurance policy expires 29th of February 2024.