

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS011		
Name of Service:	Let's Play Pre-School		
Address of Service:	5 Orlagh Way, Knocklyon, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D16 E7W4		
Name of Registered Provider:	Pamela Birchall		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	07/06/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM No.
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.

Description of service

Let's Play Preschool is a privately owned sessional service located in a residential area of South Dublin. The service operates from 9:00am-12:30pm Monday to Friday catering to children aged between 2-5 years. The service operates from the ground floor area of a house. There is one large care room and an enclosed outdoor play space at the back of the house. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE).

Staffing

The service currently employs four staff including the person in charge. The registered provider was not present on the day of the 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(c)(d) (4); Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 11(1), (3); Staffing Levels
- Regulation 20; Facilities for Rest and Play
- Regulation 19 (1)(b); Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23; Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.
- Regulation 25 First Aid

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,*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named persons to deputise. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the person in charge showed there are currently 4 staff employed by the service. The file of 1 staff member who had commenced employment since the last inspection was reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff.
- (a) Two written and validated references were available from past employers in relation to 1 staff member.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 4 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) There was no evidence to suggest that 1 staff member needed police vetting.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that 1 adult whose file was reviewed and 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 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 the children attending the service. The person in charge was observed to work directly with the children in supernumerary capacity.
- (3) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Age group	Time	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
3-5 years	9:27am	18	4	2

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-
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- Staff engaged children at their level and were responsive to their conversation and needs in a timely manner.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a relaxed and social experience for the children. Lunches and drinks were served promptly, and children were given sufficient time to enjoy their food. Staff ensured the children could open their lunchboxes and packages and joined them sitting at the table ensuring all children had opportunity to engage in the conversation.
- Drinks were accessible to the children on a low-level shelf throughout the day.
- Staff gave children gentle reminders for toileting and supported them as required.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured there were adequate facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. The following was observed:

- The care room was observed to be well planned and organised. It provided ample space for movement and play as children were observed having opportunity to follow their own interests and move freely around the room.
- The care room provided space for play at tabletop activities, a sand table and a selection of play mats should the children choose to play on the floor.
- There was a wide range of equipment accessible to the children which was grouped into themed areas encouraging extend play opportunities.
- An outdoor area including toys and equipment to support gross motor movement was available to the children.

(b) Rest areas were available to the children throughout the day. A small fabric two-seater sofa was available for children to rest on and take a break from activities. Additional soft floor mats were available for children to choose to lay on. The outdoor area included benches for children to sit at and rest while outdoors.

(3)(a) An enclosed outdoor play space was provided at rear of the premises.

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 secure when the inspector arrived at the premises preventing any unauthorised person gaining access or any children leaving unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were observed to be out of reach of children.
- A child safety gate prevented access to the kitchen area adjoining to the care room.
- Toys and equipment were observed in good condition and safe for use by the children.
- Daily risk assessment checklist and mangers morning checklist was displayed in the care room and completed up to date.
- There were no window blind cords accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Children were supported to wash their hands before lunch and following play time in the outdoor area.
- Perishable food items were stored in the fridge.
- Daily cleaning schedules for the care room and outdoor area were displayed and completed up to date.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. A cloth towel was hung in the children's toilet and observed to be used for hand drying this is not in line with HSPC guidance for hand drying and posed a risk of cross contamination.

Administration of Medication:

2. Emergency medication prescribed to a child with a diagnosed medical condition was not available on the premises. This posed a risk to the child's health in the event that the child required the medication while attending the service.
3. Care plans for two children with emergency medication did not include sufficient detail.
Detailed care plans support staff in the event of an emergency and help reduce the risk of incorrect medication administration.
4. Expired antifebrile medication was accessible to children in an unlocked fridge. This posed a risk of unintentional poisoning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. **Corrective action:** The cloth towel has been removed.
Preventive action: Cloth towels will not be used in the play area to avoid them being used in the sanitary area where paper towels will be provided.

Administration of Medication:

2. **Corrective action:** Emergency medication was not available as the child had left the service.
Preventive action: Care pans will be removed when children leave the service and checks will occur to ensure accuracy.
3. **Corrective action:** The care plans have been replaced with detailed care plan templates for all children requiring medication going forward.
Preventive action: The new care plan template details all required information.
4. **Corrective action:** The expired antifebrile medication has been replaced with a new bottle and is stored in an inaccessible area to children.
Preventive action: As per service policy all staff will check medication expiry before administering to children. In date medication is now available and will be checked and replaced when needed. The storage of the medication has been changed ensuring it is out of reach of children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence.

Administration of Medication:

- Template form.
- Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been addressed.

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 review of certificates showed that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available to the children at all times during the operational hours of the service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.