

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY003
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Name of Service:	Teanga Beo Baile Formaid
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Address of Service:	66 Convent Lawns, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D20 NY09
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Name of Registered Provider:	Hazel Norton
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	2 nd Floor, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
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Inspection undertaken by:	L. Magee & E. Mulhern
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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	Not applicable
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Description of service

This service is a community-based service located in an urban setting in Ballyfermot for children aged between 2-6 years. The service is registered to provide a part time service and two sessional services (9am-12midday and 12.30pm – 3.30 pm) between 9am-3.30pm. Currently the service is operating from 9-1pm. The premises is a detached single story adapted community centre with two preschool rooms, a kitchen, an office and a sensory room. An outdoor area is located to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were 3 adults present on the day of inspection and all 3 were working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

Regulation 9 (1), (2) & (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 22 Food and Drink

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 27 Supervision

However during the inspection Regulation 29 Premises and facilities was found to be non-compliant.

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,

(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 registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.

(2) The service currently has three members of staff. All three staff files were reviewed as part of the inspection process as evidenced below;

(a) Three validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Three validated references from a source other than a past employer were available.

(c) Garda vetting was available for all adults.

(d) Police vetting was not required as none of the adults had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that three adults working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for 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 attending the service. On the day of inspection there were three adults working directly with eight pre-school children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(8)

(a) Two adults were on the premises at all times during the inspection.

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:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(k) Ten accidents and incident records were sampled on the day of inspection.

1 Eight of the records had inadequate identifying information which included:

- No surname or date of birth on 3 records.
- No date of birth on a further 5 records.

2. The date when the accident or incident occurred was not recorded on 2 records.

3. There was no parental or guardian signature on 3 records to confirm they were aware that an accident or incident had taken place.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager has made the children’s full names and dates of birth easily accessible to staff so they will have the information needed to record going forward. The manager is to review all written reports before signing off. Staff and the manager undertook training on 18 September 2023 on filling out the accident report book to prevent any further misinformation or non-recorded information.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider have been deemed to appropriately address the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement will be assessed on the next inspection.

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 service has a healthy eating policy. The service has a two-week menu. Adequate quantities of food and suitable portion sizes were available for the children on the day of inspection. Breakfast is available to all children on arrival to the service. The service operates a rolling lunch. This enables the children to eat when they are hungry. A light lunch is provided by the service for all children. Parents can also send in snacks from home. Water was always available to the children in the room.

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 and the side gate to the service were both adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. All cleaning agents and equipment were stored safely and securely in the service, out of reach of the children. All toys and play equipment used by the children on the day were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

Both the indoor and outdoor environment were maintained in a clean condition. The sanitary facility was equipped with liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing procedure observed was ineffective for preventing cross contamination. Two different staff members were observed wearing the same gloves for the entire nappy changing procedure.
2. The children did not wash their hands after using the toilet and before mealtimes which can increase the risk of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing procedure was amended on 13 September 2023 to remove gloves before putting on clean nappy. Staff were given training on the new procedure on 14 September 2023.
2. Training for staff on infection control was carried out on 15 September 2023. Training focused particularly on handwashing and the times when this should be undertaken by children and staff.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control

Copy of amended nappy changing procedure.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider have been deemed to appropriately address the non-compliance. The practice will be reviewed on 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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. A fire drill last took place in the service on 6 September 2023.
 - (b) There was an annual record to show that both the firefighting equipment and the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced.
 - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

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

Eight preschool children were appropriately supervised throughout the morning of inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

(d) There was no hot water in the sinks in either care room or in the sanitary facilities on the day of inspection. The person in charge confirmed the boiler stopped working the day before the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

On the day prior to the inspection the manager had called an external company to report the issues and asked for an emergency call out. The boiler was fixed on the afternoon of the inspection 13 September 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted have been deemed to appropriately address the non-compliance. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.