

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016DY004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	D7 Afterschool Care Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bungalow 6, Marian Campus, Ratoath Road, Cabra West, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D07 F8KE
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/08/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM	2
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Harte
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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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.

### Description of service

D7 Afterschool Care Ltd. is a private childcare facility providing sessional and part-time care for children aged 2-6 years. The service also operates a registered school aged childcare. The service operates Monday to Friday from 8:30am-6:00pm and provides care to preschool children till 2:00pm. The premises includes three care rooms the Rainbow room, the Sunshine room and the Afterschool room. On the day of the inspection the Sunshine room and the Afterschool room were in operation.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9:00am-12:00pm in both the Sunshine and Rainbow rooms for 38 weeks of the year.

The premises also includes sanitary facilities, staff room, office, kitchen and outdoor play space at the rear of the building.

### Staffing

The service currently employees four staff members. The registered provider works directly with children and staff 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9(1),(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1),(2) Staffing Levels
- Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(k) Records in relation to Children
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child as a result the scope of the inspection included the Sunshine room.

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

(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 registered provider was present during the inspection.

(2) The files of five adults were reviewed on the day of the inspection. The following was observed:

(a)(b) Ten written references were available from a past employer or reputable source and all references for the staff members employed were validated by the registered provider.

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

(d) Police vetting was not required as none of the 5 files reviewed demonstrated that the staff members had resided outside of the jurisdiction for 6 months or longer as an adult.

(4) The five adults who 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, Equality, Disability, Integration 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.*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their basic care needs. There were two staff available to the 8 preschool children when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 9:41am. The registered provider was also present to give support as required.

(2) (4) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Sunshine room – 2 adults to 8 children aged between 2-4 years old.

### 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:*

- (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

- (h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of the children on a daily basis were maintained.
- (i) There was a staff roster available which was reflective of staff present on the day of inspection.
- (j) Following a review of a sample of four records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for the administration of medication.
- (k) Following a review of a sample of ten records, the registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for accidents and incidents.

### 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) The following practices were observed to be in place to support the children attending:

- The experiences and activities provided to the children were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose their own activities during play.
- Staff were observed to interact with the children in a calm and respectful manner. Staff engaged in conversation with the children regarding their families and interests. A staff member was observed to

assist children resolve a conflict over the use of a toy at their level offering clear guidance on where to access additional resources and promoting the use of conversation to communicate their needs.

- Staff were responsive to children’s needs for example a staff member assisted a child remove his jumper when he was observed to become too warm.
- Childre were regularly reminded about toileting and staff discussed toilet use in a positive and reassuring manner. This proved very beneficial for the new children settling into the service as they became familiar with the location of the toilets in the premises.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a social occasion as staff joined children at the table. The children’s morning snack was supplied from home. The care room included a water station encouraging the children to drink regularly throughout the day.
- The service has a supply of outdoor clothing available for use by all children including waterproof suits and wellies providing for the children’s comfort during outdoor play.

### 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 unannounced restricting unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premise and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. Staff attend the door to allow visitors access.
- Play equipment and furniture in the Sunshine room was observed to be clean and in good condition.
- No trailing flexes were observed.

##### Infection Control:

- Children’s lunches containing perishable items were stored in the refrigerator.
- Children were supported to wash their hands before mealtimes.
- Warm water, dispensed soap and handtowels and a pedal bin was available in the sanitary area to support hand hygiene practices.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.

## Administration of Medication:

- An individual care plan was available for a child with a medical condition. Staff were familiar with the child's needs and the management discussed actions taken to engage with the family and remain informed of the child's needs.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

The service outdoor policy advises the outdoor area will be checked by a staff member before use by the children and refers to a risk assessment. A record of daily risk assessments was not available for the outdoor area and the following observations were made which posed a potential risk of injury to children.

- Two fencing panels near the large sand pit in the garden had exposed rusted nails which posed a risk of injury.
- A wooden block with a damaged panel posed a splinter risk and was accessible in the garden. It was advised these are used to help secure the large sand pit lid.
- A damaged fence panel in the garden had a large crack which posed a splinter risk.
- A children's wooden bench in the garden had large sections of chipped paint.

### Infection Control:

- Stagnant water was observed in the toy wheelbarrows and the toy kitchen in the outdoor area. This increases the risk of infection.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

#### Corrective action

- Fence panels with exposed rusty nails: Nails have been removed permanently.
- Wooden blocks accessible in garden: Wooden blocks have been removed permanently.
- Damaged fence panel: Fence panel has been replaced.
- Wooden bench with chipped paint: bench has been repainted.

#### Preventive action

An outdoor risk assessment has been created in which all staff complete and sign off daily. A separate section at the bottom of each week outlines any issues observed in which management will deal with right away.

**Infection Control:**

**Corrective action**

5. Stagnant water: all stagnant water disposed of daily.

**Preventive action:**

An outdoor risk assessment has been created in which all staff complete and sign off daily. A separate section at the bottom of each week outlines any issues observed in which management will deal with right away.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

- Template risk assessment.
- Photographic evidence.

**Infection Control:**

- Template risk assessment.
- Photographic evidence.

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance's 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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was available at all times to the children attending the preschool service.

(2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored out of reach of children but accessible to staff in a conspicuous position on the premises.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1)
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises. Evidence was available that fire drills were carried out monthly with the last drill carried out on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
  - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers which were maintained in November 2023 and for the smoke alarms which were maintained on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.