

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY018		
Name of Service:	Best Start Preschool & Afterschool Donnycarney		
Address of Service:	Our Lady of Consolation School, Collins Ave East, Donnycarney, Dublin 5		
Eircode:	D05 RW80		
Name of Registered Provider:	Lina Ivanovaite		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	03/10/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM 0
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8		
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes		
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

Best start Preschool and Afterschool is a privately operated service located in a prefabricated building to the rear of Our lady of consolation school in Dublin 5. The service operates a sessional service from 9am-12:30pm Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year during the school term in line with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A registered school aged service operates in the afternoon and during school holidays. The service consists of two care room; one of which is used for early years children, sanitary facilities, a kitchen and an office.

Staffing

The service employs three staff members to work in the service during while early years children are present; Two early years practitioners who work directly with the children and an admin. The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service but in present onsite each day.

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, safety and 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, 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*
- (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

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise when required.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived in the service.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service as evidenced through a review of paperwork and discussion with staff and management.

(2) A review of the roster and conversation with management showed that there are currently 3 staff employed by the service. The files of all staff were reviewed.

(a)(b) Six written and verified references were available in relation to 3 staff members.

(c) Garda vetting declarations were available for 3 staff members.

(d) Police vetting declaration were available for 3 staff who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 2 staff members who worked directly with the children held 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.

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) (3) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children and that ratios were maintained on the day of inspection; two adults were caring for 15 children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed;

- Toys and equipment were grouped thematically into defined interest areas including a home corner, reading area, small world and tabletop areas. The areas contained a range of items which promoted spontaneous creative play. For example, the service had a large home corner containing a kitchen, dolls, prams, shopping trolleys and a range of supporting equipment such as cutlery, plates and soft furnishings.
- The outdoor area was secure and provided a natural play environment for the children with wooden toys to support a range of play experiences and skills. For example, there was a number of balance beams and climbing frame to support gross motor development and a mud kitchen with supporting items for imaginative play. Large trees provided shaded areas for sunny days.
- Low shelving allowed the children to access equipment independently while tables and chairs were an appropriate size to the children attending and allowed them to engage in mealtimes and tabletop activities comfortably.

- Additional equipment and materials were stored on high shelves in the care room and hall area for use as needed.

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 securely locked with a key on arrival to the service. This prevented unauthorised persons entering the service without staff knowledge and also prevented children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen door was securely closed, while signage reminded staff that children were not permitted to enter the kitchen at any time.
- An outdoor risk assessment was displayed in the hall of the service and was completed to date.

Infection Control:

- Windows were opened throughout the morning to allow fresh air to circulate in the care room.
- Cleaning records were displayed in all areas of the service and completed to date.
- Lunches which the children brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before eating lunches. This prevents the spread of infection.
- Pedal operated bins were available in the care room and sanitary areas for hygienic disposal of contaminated items such as tissues.
- Tissue and handtowels were hygienically dispensed in the sanitary areas.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in the children's and adult sanitary facilities to support adequate handwashing.

Administration of Medication:

- A bottle of temperature reducing medication was stored safely out of reach of the children in its original packaging.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation routes were clear and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A child aged 4 years old was observed to eat popcorn for their lunch. Staff acknowledged that this is against the service policy and would be discussed with the parents/guardians on collection. While the service policy does state popcorn was not permitted in the service it doesn't state the increased risk of choking when eating popcorn to children under 5 years old as outlined by the Health Service Executive or describe the steps that would be taken if a child brings in food which is not permitted as per the service policy.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The service have developed a policy on "Food Choking Risks for Babies and Children" that is taken from HSE guidelines. The service developed a policy on steps to be taken if the child brings in food that is not permitted as per service policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

Updated policy reviewed.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was available to the children at all times. FAR certification for both staff who work in the care room was reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) Two suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in the care room out of reach of the children but easily accessible to staff if required.

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 of fire drills which had taken place on a monthly basis were available for review. The last fire drill took place on 13th September 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available for review. Both certificates showed the equipment had been serviced in the last 12 months.
- (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the service in care room and communal areas.

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 the service was adequately insured. The expiry date of the insurance was the 27th March 2024.