

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016GY016
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Name of Service:	Bubbles Montessori
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Address of Service:	No: 18 Leargan, Western Distributor Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 TR98
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona O'Donohue
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	28
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly, S Meehan.
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
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Description of service

The service is a privately owned service in a residential housing estate in Knocknacarra, a suburbs of Galway city. The service offers a full day care service from 7:30am to 18:00pm every day Monday to Friday. It also offers a sessional service from 09:00 am to 12.30pm each day.

Staffing

The designated person in charge facilitated the inspection, the registered provider was not working in the premises on the day. There were 10 adults employed in the service, which includes the registered provider, service manager, 6 adults working directly with the children and 2 ancillary staff 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11 and 15; however, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 19. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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,*
- (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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

It was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff employed in the service.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 15 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for adults working in the service.

(b) There were 5 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 6 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months

(4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework or 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.

(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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the first day of inspection, there were 31 pre-school children, attending the service.

(2) At 10.30 am on the first day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

Downstairs playroom, there were 2 adults working with 20 children aged over 3 years of age.

Upstairs playroom, there was 1 adult working with 11 children, aged between 2 years 11 months and 3 years .

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service. The records contained all the appropriate information required to support the care provided by the service to each child.

A sample of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 33 children attending the service, a total of 6 records were reviewed , all 6 records contained the necessary elements (a-i) as outlined above.

(4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child ceases to attends the service.

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-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

- The service provides the main meal for children attending on a full day care basis. The main meal of the day was lasagna and vegetables, the children were encouraged to self-serve. A dish of the lasagna was placed on a table and each child was encouraged to serve themselves. One staff member sat with the children and assisted the children when required. The children were given the opportunity to eat their meals in an unhurried manner,
- Self toileting was both supported and encouraged by adults depending on the child's age and stage of development.
- Children are provided with labelled individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual coat hooks in outside in the corridor adjacent to the playrooms downstairs and the playroom upstairs.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed during the inspection, the children were observed washing their hands when they returned from outdoor play and before their lunch.
- The children had an opportunity to move freely indoors and outdoors and the various outdoor areas/spaces was in constant use on the day of inspection. Each playroom had a dedicated time in which to play and explore. On the day of inspection that children in the downstairs playroom spent longer in the outdoor play area than the children in the upstairs playroom.
- The toys and equipment in this space supported children's play and movement
- There was a drink station in each of the playrooms where the children had access to individually labelled cups and a jug of water, the children were encouraged to self-serve.
- The children were encouraged to put on their coats, scarves and gloves before they went outside. The staff only offered help when asked or when the children required assistance.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs.

The service did not provide for each child's comfort and need for sleep, rest and relaxation.

At 13.00pm on the day of inspection, 1 child was put down to sleep in the rest area of the upstairs playroom. The remaining 7 children attending this playroom did not have access to soft seating or any means to sit and relax while this child slept in this area. All of these children present were aged between 2 and 3 years of age and attending the service on a full day care basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Soft seating is made available to all children in the Junior playroom.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 3/12/2024, the registered provider submitted a photograph of a bean bag and a low-level child sized photograph.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider was review by the early years Inspectorate, the regulatory requirement has been achieved.