

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2019DY004		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Chestnut Daycare Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Knockmaree, Laurence O Toole Road, Chapelizod, Dublin 20.		
<b>Eircode:</b>	Co. Dublin		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Laura Higgins		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	25/07/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	24	PM 24
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Redmond and E Mulhern		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

This private childcare service was acquired in 2019 and is one of six services operated by the registered provider. Full day care is provided for children aged one to five years of age; a sessional service is also available for 38 weeks of the year. The service is registered to cater for a maximum number of thirty-seven pre-school children. The service operates from a purposefully adapted premises in a residential area of Dublin southwest. Five care rooms and a cot room are available and one of the care rooms is used for children to sleep on low beds at a certain time during the day. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises which has an impact absorbing covering and a variety of play equipment and materials were provided in this area.

### Staffing

There are nine adults employed in the service including the service manager; the registered provider does not work in the service but is available to when required. Adults working in the service had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent.

### 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 areas of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The focus of the inspection was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels
- Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child
- Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service
- Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

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 reoccurring. 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 service manager and staff who facilitated the inspection 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

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The files for nine adults employed in the service were reviewed during this inspection and a file was available for an adult who was providing cover from another centre operated by the registered provider, and this was also reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for all adults.
  - (b) References from other sources were also available.
  - (c) Garda vetting was available for ten adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult for whom it was required.
- (4) There was evidence that ten adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were seven adults working directly with twenty-four children on the day of inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A random selection of records were reviewed for ten children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school 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

- (1)
- (h) Details of children’s attendance was accurately recorded in electronic format.
  - (i) A staff roster was available.
  - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child, should it be required, and that administration of medication is witnessed.
  - (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded in electronic format and there was evidence available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

## 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 registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place.**

Nutritious and varied food was offered to children at regular intervals throughout the day. Mealtimes were relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults sat and engaged with them; young children were encouraged to feed themselves and were helped when needed. Children were offered milk with their meal and extra portions of food were readily available. Children's cultural and dietary preferences were catered for. Drinking water was available to children throughout the day in individual bottles which were also brought to the outdoor area.

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required.

Adults were observed to interact attentively with young children during the nappy changing procedure. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

Young children who required a nap during the day were facilitated away from the general play area and had heavy clothing and shoes removed before being put down to sleep and rest.

Adults enabled collaborative behaviours with children by managing transitions between activities appropriately, for example giving a five-minute warning to the children to tidy up before the main meal.

Children had daily access to outdoor play and had sunscreen applied before going outside.

Care plans were available for children with specific medical conditions and allergies.

Adults used effective information sharing processes including a mobile tablet application system which promoted consistency and continuity of care for children attending the service.