

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2020DS004 | | | |
| Name of Service: | Blue Stars Early Years Service | | | |
| Address of Service: | Dundrum Methodist Church, Ballinteer Road, Dundrum, Co. Dublin | | | |
| Eircode: | D16WK27 | | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Annalisse Cedano | | | |
| Service type: | Part Time | | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 10/10/2025 | | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 6 | PM | 6 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin | | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | Olivia Quill | | | |
| 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

Blue Stars Early Years Service is registered to provide part-time care to children aged 3 to 6 years and is one of three services run by the registered provider. The service operates from one room within the ground floor of Dundrum Methodist Church in Dundrum, Dublin 14. One care room with associated sanitary accommodation and an outdoor area which is located at the rear of the building is available to the service. A part time service is provided from 9:00am to 1.00pm and 1.30pm to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. The service specifically caters for children with autism.

Staffing

In total five staff are employed in the service including the person in charge. The registered providers work in the service from time to time. On the day of inspection four staff were present including the regional manager.

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.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment,

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels,
19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
25 First Aid
26 Fire Safety
28 Insurance.

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 person in charge, regional manager, 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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) Following a review of files and a discussion with the manager it was confirmed four adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 20 November 2023. The regional manager was present on inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these five adults and Garda vetting was reviewed for new staff, the regional manager and two registered providers. The Regulatory requirement was met follows:
- (a) Seven written validated references were provided from past employers.
 - (b) Three written validated references were provided from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for eight adults employed in the service. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting had been sourced as required for three adults who had lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that three adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. One adult held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

Non-Compliance Information

(4) There was no evidence available to confirm that one adult who was employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The worker has applied for recognition of her qualification with the DCDEIY, and the application is still in progress, pending a decision. If the qualifications are recognised, the worker will continue working with us. In the event of a rejection, the teacher will be enrolled in the Certificate in Early Learning and Care Level 5 Major Award at Portobello Institute, starting in January 2026. Changing the recruitment process to only have teachers recognised by the DCDEIY.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance once implemented.

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 was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were four adults working directly with six pre-school children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times during the inspection

(8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated that at least two adults are present at all times during the hours of opening.

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

(1)(a)

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school. Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted kindly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Snack and lunches were provided by parents. The children sat together for their morning

snack and staff offered additional support as needed. Children had their own water bottles and had access to them throughout the day.

Children's nappies were changed as needed and staff were observed engaging warmly with the children when providing this care. The environment was laid out to support children's independence. A variety of developmentally appropriate play materials and areas of interest allowing children the freedom to play and explore. These materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving provided. Play was child led children were observed to choose the activity they wished to engage in and staff were also observed to carry out one to one work with children. All Children were observed to enjoy time in the outdoor play area. The outdoor play area was enclosed by a fence and had an artificial grass surface. A variety of play equipment was available including swings and slides and a picnic table and bench.

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:

Access to the service was secure to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. A keypad system was in place to allow authorised access only. Cleaning agents and medications were stored safely out of reach of children. There were no hazards identified in the outdoor play area.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were available and maintained. Staff were observed to follow the nappy changing procedure. Sanitary facilities were equipped to support handwashing. Staff guided children to wash their hands after using the toilet and before meals. Waste was properly managed using pedal-operated bins, ensuring hands-free disposal.

Administration of Medication:

Care plans were available for children with specific medical conditions and staff were familiar with them.

Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedures to administer medication safely if needed including obtaining written parent/guardian consent. Detailed records were available of medicines given signed by two staff and parents.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Outing:

The manager reported the service does not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

A large free-standing television was positioned on a cupboard within reach of children posing a potential injury risk if a child were to accidentally knock it over.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The TV has been mounted on a floor TV stand attached to a TV bench. All loose furniture will be secured properly to avoid accidents.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in line with the actions stated by the registered provider. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 staff trained in first aid for children were at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. Four staff working directly with the children had up to date First Aid Responder training.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location in the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 24 September 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment was dated 09 July 2025 and the smoke alarm system was dated the 28 April 2025.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

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

Children were closely supervised at all times by sight and sound in the indoor and outdoor area by staff.

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 pre-school was adequately insured. The insurance certificate was displayed and was valid until the 27 March 2026.