

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023DR001
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Name of Service:	Once Upon a Time
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Address of Service:	Unit 6, Cherrywood Town Centre, Grande Parade, Area TC2, Cherrywood, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 PA66
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne McCormack, David McCormack
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	03/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM	41
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty and Rosemary Brien
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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

Once Upon a Time Cherrywood is a full day care service located in a residential area in Cherrywood, Dublin 14. Children attend the service from Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6.30pm. This service was first registered to operate from 6th January 2023.

The service is located in a mixed-use development including retail and residential apartments. There are five care rooms available for the care and education of children and sanitary accommodation. On the day of inspection there were 4 care rooms in use Baby, Wobbler, Toddler and Pre Montessori rooms. The service has a garden to the rear of the premises for outdoor play.

Staffing

There were 15 members of staff present on the day of inspection including 2 Area Managers, the centre manager and a domestic employee. The manager and area managers were not assigned to a care room, but were available to assist across the care rooms as required during the inspection. All staff members working directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework for Qualifications. The registered providers do not work 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 announced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

The inspection focussed on the records of fifteen staff members who had been recruited since the service commenced operating.

- (2)
- (a) Twenty seven validated past employer references were available for inspection in respect of fifteen new employees recruited since the last inspection.
- (b) Three additional references were available from a source other than a past employer for three staff members.
- (c) Garda vetting records were available for all staff.
- (d) Police vetting records were available for eleven staff members who had lived abroad for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available detailing that all staff members had achieved the required level of qualification at a minimum level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

International Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

This staff member no longer works in the company. The recruitment officer will ensure that she ensuring the Police Vetting is on file prior to staff starting.

Summary Comment

The response submitted by the registered provider addresses the non-compliance identified on inspection.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 41 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by fifteen adults during the inspection.

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 had a healthy eating policy. A morning snack, hot dinner and evening snack is provided daily by the service. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times during the inspection.

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection. Staff were observed to talk to children at their level and use warm and gentle tones when communicating with them. Staff supported children's independence during planned activities, free play and encouraged participation from all children during the inspection.

The inspectors observed positive interactions between children and staff throughout the inspection.

The service communicated with parents daily verbally on arrival and collection and also used a childcare specific application which they updated in real time which parents had access to.

Children were observed and encouraged to be independent, examples of this were using the toilet independently, washing their hands and putting away their belongings.

The care rooms had a range of play based materials and interest areas that allowed the children to explore and use their imagination. All materials were visible and accessible on low level shelving, a variety of table top activities were available for children to choose whenever they wished. A book corner and a rest area were located in all care rooms. Children's artwork was displayed on walls and educational posters were also displayed.