

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024DR002
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Name of Service:	Lauras Little Cubs
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Address of Service:	214 Clonkeen Road, Deansgrange, Co Dublin
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Eircode:	A94 N9F6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Clarke
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date(s) of Inspection:	13/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	1	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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

Laura's Little Cubs is a single handed childminding service located in a residential area of Deansgrange, Co Dublin. The service operates between the hours of 8.30am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in the registered provider's home which is a two storey semi-detached house. The service comprises of a ground floor play room, a dining area and further play area off the kitchen, sanitary accommodation and a nappy changing area on the ground floor. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the property.

Staffing

The registered provider works single handedly and holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 the child.. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 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-

(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.

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(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)
- (b) The service will not operate in the absence of the registered provider.
- (2)
- (a) (b) Past employer references were available for the registered provider and the person designated to provide emergency cover.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were obtained in respect of the registered provider and the emergency contact person.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as neither the registered provider or the emergency person had lived in another state for a period of more than 6 months.
- (4) The registered provider held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency, and

Compliance Information

(8)(b)

An arrangement was made with a family member working locally to be available to provide assistance in the event of the emergency. The second person was known to the children and the parents and is in contact with the registered provider daily.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

(a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,

(b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and

(c) there is a working telephone on the premises.

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was 1 child on the register who was present on the day of inspection.

(b) There were no children under 15 months in attendance.

(c) A fully charged mobile phone was on the premises.

(2)

Not applicable, as there were no children under 15 months of age.

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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 registered provider worked closely with the parents of the children in her care to meet the nutritional requirements of the children. Breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner which included 2 hot meals were all provided by the service.

The provider attended to the child's cleanliness and comfort and was observed to wash their hands after nappy changing.

Nappy changes took place when required, while ensuring that not longer than 3 hours elapsed between changes.

The individual sleep requirements of the child were met, a place to rest and relax was available to the child as they no longer took a daytime nap.

The inspector observed positive interactions between the child and the registered provider. She responded to their needs in a warm and gentle manner providing comfort and reassurance when child was upset. The registered provider was observed to sit with the child on their level and provide assistance and scaffold their learning through imaginative play.

The provider spoke to parents on a daily basis upon arrival and collection detailing important information that had occurred during the day.

The provider and child alternated between using the kitchen\dining room and the playroom for play activities.

The playroom was equipped with a low level shelving and age appropriate toys and play equipment including including interactive toys, books, a dolls house, play kitchen, cars and dress up.

The play area in the kitchen had a child sized table and chairs and low level shelving containing materials from the Montessori method of education.

The daily routine includes play time spent in the garden where there was a slide, ride on toys, a water wall and a seesaw available to them.