

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DR116

Name of Service: Westwood Childcare

Address of Service: Westwood Club
Leopardstown Racecourse
Foxrock
Dublin 18

Email Address: conor.caulfield@westwood.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Brenda Flood

Type of Service Registered: **Part-Time** ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: 1 0 0 3 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 13 PM N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Tusla – Child & Family Agency
Trinity Building
IDA Business Park
Bray
Co Wicklow

Inspection undertaken by: Mary Redmond
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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 N/A

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Description of Service	This private childcare facility is situated in a large leisure centre and has been operating on the campus since 1995. The service previously offered a drop-in facility which ceased operating in 2019. The service is registered to provide part-time care for children aged between two and six years of age and operates from 9am to 1pm; at the time of the inspection children were attending on a sessional basis only. School-aged childcare is provided in the afternoons. The early years service is currently registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty-eight children.
Premises	The service operates from a purpose-built area located on the first floor of a mixed-use leisure centre premises in a residential area of south county Dublin. There are two rooms available for use by children; one of these rooms was in use on the day of inspection. Children have access to a large communal area and a dance studio. Children also have access to an indoor play area when not in use by patrons of the facility. There is currently no outdoor space available to children attending the service.
Staffing	There are three adults employed in the service; this does not include the registered provider who does not work directly with the children. Adults employed to work directly with the children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 and 6 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. 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, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the designated person in charge and staff members who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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) 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 designated person in charge confirmed that no adults had been recruited since the last inspection on the 9th April 2019.

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 were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. There were two adults working directly with thirteen children. (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained during the inspection. (8) (a) There were always at least two adults on the premises.
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HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF 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—
- (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

Compliance Information:	BASIC NEEDS: Parents provided a variety of healthy snacks for children attending and drinking water was readily available to children. The proximity of the sanitary accommodation within the care room allowed children to use this area independently. Children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room and in another large hall. PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT: The children had access to a spacious open plan room with defined interest areas; there was also another large indoor play area available to facilitate a change of environment when required. Play equipment and materials available supported areas of child development including gross motor, fine motor skills and language development. An area was available to facilitate a child to rest if required.
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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 controlled via a reception area which had barriers restricting access to the area where the service was located, and doors were suitably secured to prevent children from leaving the service unsupervised. Children's attendance was accurately recorded. INFECTION CONTROL: There were cleaning schedules in place for equipment in use by the children and the environment was clean. Liquid soap, paper towel, and thermostatically controlled hot water and wall mounted hand sanitisers were available to facilitate appropriate hand hygiene practices. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION: Documentation for the safe administration of medication was available.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: 1. The record showed that a fire drill had not been practiced since the 30th November 2021. Failure to practice monthly fire drills could impede the safe evacuation of adults and children in the event of a fire or other emergency evacuation.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider:	CORRECTIVE ACTION GENERAL SAFETY: 1. Fire drills have been scheduled and will be practiced at least once a month. PREVENTIVE ACTION 1. The manager and deputy manager will ensure that fire drills are practiced as per the schedule.
Summary Comment:	The actions as stated will address the non-compliance. 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) There was evidence that a person trained in first aid was available to children attending the service.

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to children attending 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 of the fire drills that take place in the premises.

(b) There was a record to show that the fire-fighting equipment had been serviced on the 18th October 2021 and that testing of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 20th August 2021.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed.