

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR136
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Name of Service:	Little Feat
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Address of Service:	Farrenboley House, Clonskeagh Village, Dublin 14.
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Email Address:	littlefeatmontessorichildcare@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Nicola Darling
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Type of service registered:	Full Day Care ☒
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Date of Inspection:	0	9	0	2	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	24	PM	24
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Floor 2 Brunel building Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms S. Quigley
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	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	Not applicable
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TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	Little Feat is a full day care service and is located in an urban, residential area of Clonskeagh, Dublin 14. A service is provided to children aged between six months and six years Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:00 hours. It operates from the ground floor of a period domestic dwelling which has been purposely adapted for use as an early years service. The service consists of four care rooms and a purpose built room is also in use to the rear of the premises. A large outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	There were eight adults present on the day of inspection, including a cook and the registered provider who works directly in the service.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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 inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms named Caterpillar and Butterfly, and did not include the Montessori room. 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 cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information:

- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of three staff members working in the service who were employed subsequent to the last date of inspection on the 5th February 2019. The following vetting documents and records which were furnished to the inspector in respect of the three staff members met regulatory requirements:
- (a) One reference each from a past employer in respect of the three adults.
 - (b) Not applicable.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau for the three adults working in the service.
 - (d) Police vetting for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (7)
- (a) The persons in charge ensured that all employees were provided with appropriate training and information on the following policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5; Infection Control and Risk Management Policy, as evidenced by the following:
 - Staff adequately detailed policies and procedures in place in the service during discussions with the inspector, including policies and practices which were revised to respond to Covid-19.
 - A review of documentation evidenced that staff training was facilitated in the service for employees on amendments made to policies and practice. Staff stated that amendments were discussed during training and issued to employees. An online training course regarding best practice in infection control was also facilitated for employees.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	- A written record of staff training was maintained in the service, including updated training on revised procedures relating to Covid-19 including: - Handwashing procedures - Drop off and collection procedures - Procedures for cleaning and infection control.
Non-Compliance Information:	9(2)(a) There was no evidence to show that three written references available from past employers had been validated by the registered provider.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider provided the following response: <u>Corrective Action</u> Three references have now been stamped and validated. <u>Preventive Action</u> A new checklist is now in place regarding all staff documentation.
Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	The registered provider ensured that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place for the service. The inspection focused on two policies specified in Schedule 5, namely the Infection Control Policy and the Risk Management policy in place in the service. Policies, procedures and statements had been reviewed in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and were verified during discussions with staff working in the service and upon review of documentation. These policies had been appropriately communicated to both parents and staff members in the service. A signed record detailing that staff members had read, understood and agreed to adhere to the updated policies was available.
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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 twenty-four pre-school children attending the service being supervised by seven 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

Compliance Information:

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

The practices observed by the inspector evidenced that staff working in the service were aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to supporting the children's wellbeing, health and development in the service. The play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led, and children were visibly happy and engaged in their play throughout the inspection. Adults used gentle tones and positive, respectful language during all interactions with the children and staff were observed to respond promptly to babies' needs.

Staff working in the service stated that methods of communication with parents had been adjusted in light of Covid-19. Information on activities, meals, sleep and nappy-changing was recorded throughout the day for the younger children to be shared with parents/guardians on collection.

Staff availed of opportunities to communicate with parents and guardians at brief intervals during drop off and collection times. Staff stated an online application was in use daily by staff and parents. This was used to share photographs, updates and information between parents and staff members.

Physical and Material Environment:

The care rooms were adequately resourced and set up with a variety of play materials and equipment which were easily accessible to the children at all times on low level shelving. The care rooms were equipped with a cosy areas for children to rest as required and low level tables and chairs were available to the children.

Pieces of the children's artwork were displayed around the service alongside birthday walls.

The children had access to a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises which was well resourced with a variety of play equipment. All of the children accessed the outdoor play area on the day of inspection.

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Non-Compliance Information:	Physical and Material Environment: Lighting in the sleep room could not be appropriately adjusted as the window had no blind to adequately dim the light. On the day of inspection, staff were observed to stack cushions one top of each other against the window in an effort to dim the lighting.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider provided the following response: <u>Corrective Action</u> A new window blind has been purchased and is now in the sleep room. <u>Preventive Action</u> A new blind is now in place.
Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

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:

All cleaning products, alcohol-based hand sanitisers, hazardous materials and medications were stored safely out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The policy and associated procedures and practices had been amended to reflect the guidance issued to the sector regarding Covid-19 as evidenced by the following:

- Schedules were maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned, including frequent cleaning of high contact surfaces, toys and cleaning of garden equipment following each use.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service.
- A system was in place for sterilization of mouthing toys and soothers after use.
- Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including on arrival to the service, after using the toilet, following outdoor play and before meals. Liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water were available to facilitate hand washing, and alcohol based hand sanitiser was available and in use at regular intervals throughout the inspection. Staff were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate.
- Adults working in the service stated that appropriate protocols and exclusion periods for adults and children presenting with symptoms of Covid-19 and other infectious illnesses were implemented in the service. This was evidenced by the updated infection control and risk management policy in place in the service.
- Measures to maintain distancing between parents, staff members and groups of children had been implemented in the service. Children attending each play pod had separate designated entrance points. Staff stated children were met daily by a staff member at the entrance to the service and taken to their care room where they remained with one group of children and staff members in a designated play pod.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	Children had individual cots and low level beds and availed of rest or sleep within their own group. Individual bed linen was provided for each child and staff stated all bed linen is laundered once per week and as required thereafter. Safe sleep: Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance and placed babies on their backs to sleep. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and staff recorded children's breathing, colour and position every ten minutes. Standard cots were provided for all children under two years to sleep and low level stackable beds were provided for children over two years to rest as required. The sleep room was maintained between the required temperature range of between 16 - 20°C whilst babies were sleeping.
Non-Compliance Information:	Infection Control: The covering on a mattress in the cot room was heavily worn and frayed in parts and could not be effectively cleaned for infection control purposes.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider provided the following response: <u>Corrective Action</u> A new mattress protector has been purchased and is now in place. <u>Preventive Action</u> The checking of mattresses has now been added to the daily risk assessment in the service.
Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.