TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR149
Name of Service:	Nutgrove Loreto Preschool
Address of Service:	Nutgrove & Loreto Community Centre Rathfarnham Dublin 14, D14 C952
Email Address:	bperry636@gmail.com
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Barbara Perry

Type of service registered:	**Sessional**	✓

Date of Inspection:	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	**AM**	9

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Floor 2 Brunel building Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by: **Title:**	Ms S. Quigley 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

Description of Service	Nutgrove & Loreto Preschool is a privately owned sessional service which was established in 1997 by the current registered provider. Care and education is provided to children aged two to six years and the programme of care is facilitated through a play based curriculum. The service is located in a residential area in Rathfarnham, South County Dublin and is open from 09:00 to 12:00 each weekday. The service operates from a room within the Nutgrove and Loreto Community Centre. An outdoor play area is available to the front of the premises with natural grass surfacing.
Staffing	There were two adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider who works directly in the service each day.
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 announced 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 and advance notice had been given to the service of the planned inspection. This minimised disruption to service provision while services focus on re-opening and familiarising staff and children with new ways of working. 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, person in charge, 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 one staff member working in the service who was employed subsequent to the last date of inspection on the 25th June 2018. The following vetting documents and records which were furnished to the inspector in respect the staff member met regulatory requirements: (a) Not applicable, as there were no references available for the staff member from a past employer. (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the staff member working in the service. (d) Not applicable as the staff member had not lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult. (7) (a) The registered provider ensured that all employees were provided with appropriate training and information on the policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 as evidenced by the following: • During discussions with the inspector staff adequately detailed policies and procedures in place in the service, including policies and practices which were revised to respond to Covid-19. • Staff confirmed that information was provided on amendments to policies, procedures and statements that had been revised. Evidence of completed online staff training was available to reflect the implementation of the revised polices.
Non-Compliance Information:	(2) (b) While there were two references available there was no evidence to demonstrate that the registered provider had validated the references to ensure the adult was a suitable and competent applicant.

Part III - Management and Staff	
Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment	
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	**Corrective Action** References were validated over the phone for the staff member. **Preventive Action** A telephone reference checklist has been generated for use as evidence to demonstrate that references have been validated. The registered provider will ensure that the telephone reference checklist is filled out while checking references as per recruitment procedures.
Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and met 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. 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.

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. *(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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)—* *(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*	
Compliance Information:	(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection. (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were nine pre-school children attending the service being supervised by two adults during the inspection. (8) (c) Not applicable as the registered provider does not operate the service single-handedly.

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 daily routine in the service was observed to be child-led. Children were observed throughout the inspection to be visibly content and happy in their play and adults were observed acting in a supportive role. Adults used soft tones and gentle, respectful language during all interactions which reflected in the relaxed atmosphere of the service. A routine was in place which outlined both indoor and outdoor activities for the children each week which was observed to be adapted and led by the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider stated that methods of communication with parents had been adjusted in light of Covid-19. Staff availed of opportunities to communicate with parents and guardians at brief periods during drop off and collection times. Staff stated that a monthly newsletter is also issued to the parents informing them of activities in the preschool and how the month went and includes the curriculum plan for the month ahead. Parents were also provided with a copy of any amendments made to policies and practices prior to the service reopening. **Physical and Material Environment:** The children had access to an outdoor area to the front of the premises with natural grass surfacing. A range of outdoor play equipment and materials to provide valuable play experiences for the children in attendance was available and the registered provider stated they are taken out to the outdoor area daily. All of the children in attendance were provided with opportunities for outdoor play on the day of inspection. Low level chairs, tables and shelving were available to the preschool children. The care room was adequately resourced with an adequate range of play materials which were all observed to be suitably arranged at the children's level and easily accessible throughout the day. The care room was divided into various areas of interest including a home corner, a rest area, an art and a construction area.

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:	The inspector observed the following measures which had been implemented to safeguard the children in attendance on the day of inspection: **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: - Cleaning schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned, including frequent cleaning of high contact surfaces, sanitary areas and toys. - Children's hands were routinely washed 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. - 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. The arrival courtyard leading to the entrance of the service had designated standing points in place for parents to queue and drop and collection times were staggered for the children in attendance.
Non-Compliance Information:	**Medication Administration:** The registered provider had not taken adequate measures to safeguard the health and wellbring of children with regard to administration of medicines as demonstrated by the following findings: 1. There was anti-febrile medication available in the service which the registered provider stated was there should a child required it, and written parental consent had been obtained to administer this medication if required. There was no medication administration policy or accompanying procedures available to safely administer such medication to a child if required.

Part VI - Safety	
	The corrective and preventive actions submitted following the last inspection of the service on the 25th June 2018 did not prevent re-occurrence of this non-compliance. 2. A child attending the service had an auto adrenaline injector and an oral allergy relief medication in the service to treat a severe allergy. There was no care plan in place detailing what the child had an allergy to and how to identify if the child was having a reaction that required medical treatment. There was no evidence available of written parental consent to administer these medications if required. This could impede the safe, timely provision of emergency care which could place the child's health at significant risk.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	**Corrective Action** **Medication Administration:** The child no longer uses the auto adrenaline injector. A medication policy and procedure has been generated. **Preventive Action** **Medication Administration:** The registered provider will ensure the policy and procedures are reviewed and updated every six months.
Summary Comment:	Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and was deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.