

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR161							
Name of Service:	Cherry Blossom Grove							
Address of Service:	23 Corbawn Drive, Shankill Co Dublin							
Email Address:	Suzanne.billings@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Suzanne Widger							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	2	5	0	1	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		17					
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 2, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin.							
Inspection undertaken by:	Linda Magee							
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	Not applicable
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Description of Service	This private childcare service was established in 2013 by the current registered provider. A sessional service is provided for children aged between 2 years and six months and 6 years of age. The service is provided between 09:00hrs – 12.30 hrs Monday to Friday.
Premises	This service is located in a residential area in Shankill, co Dublin. The service is attached to the home of the registered provider and has a separate entrance. There are two preschool rooms in the service and an outdoor area to the front of the premises.
Staffing	There are four members of staff including the registered provider working in the service. All of whom work directly with the children.
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 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. 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.*
- (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:

(2) The inspection focused on the management and recruitment of staff members who had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection on 1st May 2019:

- (a) Validated references were available from past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for two new members of staff.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as none of the adults had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence that two adults working directly with the children had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.

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) There were seventeen pre-school children attending the service being supervised by three adults at the time of inspection. An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection.
- (8) (c) Not applicable, as the service was not operated 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:

BASIC NEEDS:

The service had a healthy eating policy. Parents provided snacks and a light lunch for all children. Water was given to the children with their meal. Children's toileting and hygiene needs were attended to promptly and they were supervised using the toilet independently.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

Adults were observed communicating effectively during the inspection, they listened and spoke individually with the children at their level. Child led play was observed. The service had invited a regular visitor in to provide activities for the preschool children in the large outdoor area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Both preschool rooms were set up with low level tables and chairs and low-level shelving. Age-appropriate materials and equipment were accessible to the pre-school children. These materials promoted the development of various interests including arts and crafts, a home corner, a cosy corner and a book corner.

Both groups of children were observed playing in the outdoor area. This had an artificial grass surfacing and a nature area which was made up of bark. Part of the outdoor area was enclosed. Interest areas outdoors included sand and water play, a construction zone, a cosy area, picnic tables and an outdoor kitchen.

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 on the day of inspection:

General Safety:

- The fire escape routes were free from any obstructions.
- All hazardous equipment and cleaning materials were stored out of reach of the children.
- The outdoor play area was directly accessible to the children from the pre-school room. This area was safely enclosed by fencing and a surrounding wall.
- All toys and play equipment used by the children on the day were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins. Completed cleaning schedules were in place demonstrating the daily and weekly procedures taken by the service.
- Children and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection. The children's personal belongings were stored individually in a designated area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	The service operated as one pod. Staff were aware of the steps to take in the event that a child or adult displayed symptoms of Covid-19.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: - The entrance door to the service was adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within but on arrival to the service the inspector was able to gain access through the front entrance as the latch was left off to enable parents to gain entry. This could pose a safety risk to the children. - An access door between the registered provider's home and the service was unsecured and this could also pose a safety risk to the children. INFECTION CONTROL: - The nappy changing policy did not contain all of the required steps to prevent cross infection. The nappy changing policy and procedure displayed in the service did not outline the requirement to remove soiled gloves before re-dressing a child following a nappy change.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	GENERAL SAFETY: <u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> - Exterior gate will be locked at all times. Parents are met at the gate at drop off and collection times by one staff member. A new notice has been put up on the gate which states that the gate is locked and doorbell is to be used. - Interior door to provider's home is locked at all times and key is located on hook at side of door. Reminder sign is now located on door. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> - Staff have been advised to always lock the gate during the morning. Parents have been advised that the gate will be locked at all times and that if no staff member is at the gate at drop off and collection times, to use the doorbell. - Provider will lock interior door on arrival each morning. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> - New signage for front gate and internal door.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

INFECTION CONTROL:

CORRECTIVE ACTION

1. Nappy changing policy and procedure has been amended, following Tusla template, to note that soiled gloves are removed and disposed of prior to redressing the child.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

1. All staff have completed training on the change to nappy changing policy and procedure, and new policy has been added to handbook and is on view on the wall in nappy changing area.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

New updated nappy changing policy.

Summary Comment:

The non-compliance outlined under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

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)
A person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times.
- (2)
(a) The first aid box was adequately stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service as required.
(b) A first aid box was always available to the adults and children in the service.

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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on 20th of December 2021. (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 5th of October 2021 and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on 7th of January 2022. (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.
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