

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS074							
Name of Service:	Headstart Preschool							
Address of Service:	Brookfield Enterprise Centre Rossfield Avenue Tallaght Dublin 24							
Email Address:	headstart.preschool@yahoo.ie							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Teresa McCullagh							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	0	8	0	6	2	0	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		15		PM		N/A	
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive Loughlinstown County Dublin							
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill							
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	Headstart preschool is a community based early years service that was established in 1998 and is registered to provide sessional care and education to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and operates Monday to Friday providing a morning and afternoon service from 08.30 am to 11.30am and from 12pm to 3pm.
Premises	The early years service is located in an urban area in Brookfield Enterprise Centre in Tallaght Dublin 24. Three care rooms are provided and a small sensory room is available. An outdoor play area is provided to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	In total six adults were present when the inspector arrived. This included five childcare staff and one staff member who was employed for administration duties. One of the adults present was employed under the Access and Inclusion Scheme (AIMS) and another adult was employed under a Community Employment (CE) scheme. The registered provider does not work in the service.
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. 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 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.
- (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) Following a review of the service file and a discussion with the designated person in charge it was confirmed two new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection. These files were reviewed. (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for both adults. (d) Not applicable, the adults employed had not lived outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months as adults. (4) There was evidence the adults employed in the service had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.
Non-Compliance Information:	(2) (a) & (b) Two validated past employer references or references from a reputable source were not available on file for the two adults employed.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> (2) (a) & (b) Two validated references were obtained for two adults and submitted. <u>Preventive Action</u> A checklist has been made for new employees.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	Supporting Documentation Written evidence was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.
Summary Comment:	(2)(a) & (b) Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (3) <i>Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a <u>sessional pre-school service</u> 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.</i> (8) <i>Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i> (c) <i>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.</i>	
Compliance Information:	(1) On the day of inspection there were five adults working with fifteen children. (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 was maintained at all times during the inspection. (8) (c) Not applicable, 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:

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. Children went to the toilet independently. When children arrived, they were offered breakfast by the service and lunch was provided by parents. Children were observed to enjoy lunch which was relaxed and unhurried. Staff sat with the children and engaged in conversation.

Physical and Material Environment:

All of the preschool rooms were equipped with suitable low-level table and chairs as appropriate to the children's ages and stages of development. Clearly defined areas of interest were available in each of the rooms including a home corner, construction area, dress up and messy play with sand provided.

These areas were adequately resourced with various play materials, which enabled a range of developmentally appropriate and valuable play experiences for the children attending the service.

Children were observed to move freely between the three rooms, independently choosing tasks to complete from low level shelving provided. Suitable rest areas equipped with a child size sofa was available for children to rest. The children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises. The outdoor area was not used on the day of inspection as work was in the process of being completed.

Non-Compliance Information:

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

1. Drinking water was not freely available for the children in their care rooms.
2. The service offered children diluted fruit juice with their lunch. This drink is not tooth-friendly and should be limited.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Basic Needs:

1. Jugs and cups were purchased and water is now available in each room.
2. From September water and milk only is offered at lunch.

Preventive Action

Basic Needs:

1. Jugs, cups and water is now available in each room.
2. From September water and milk only is offered at lunch.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Summary Comment	The Corrective and Preventive Actions as stated by the Registered Provider have addressed the non-compliance.
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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: External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of the reach. Toys used by the children were in good working order. Infection Control: The environment was clean. Each of the preschool rooms was equipped with a wash hand basin a supply of thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towel and pedal operated waste bins. Children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating. Staff were observed to clean the tables after children ate their lunch and wash their hands appropriately. Administration of Medication: A care plan was available for a child who required medication for a specific medical condition. The medication was clearly labelled, in date and stored safely. When questioned staff were familiar with the care plan and treatment required for this child.
Non-Compliance Information:	Fire Safety: 1. Fire drills were not conducted monthly. The last fire drill was carried out on the 1 April 2022 posing a risk to the safe evacuation of the children in the event of a fire on the premises.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> Fire Safety: 1. Fire drills will be conducted monthly. <u>Preventive Action</u> Fire Safety: 1. Fire drills records will now be included to be discussed in monthly staff meetings.
Summary Comment:	The Corrective and Preventive Actions as stated by the Registered Provider have addressed the non-compliance.

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 qualified in first aid for children was available on the premises. (2) (a) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location on the premises. (b) The first aid box was readily available in the service at all times.
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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. The last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 1 April 2022. (b) The number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The certificates were dated the 1 June 2022 and the 13 October 2021. (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.
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