

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS074
Name of Service:	Head Start Pre-School
Address of Service:	Brookfield Enterprise Centre, Rossfield avenue, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24EV96.
Email Address:	headstart.preschool@yahoo.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider:	Sister Teresa McCullagh
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☒
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Date(s) of Inspection:	1	4	1	0	2	0	2	0
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co Dublin.
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Inspection undertaken by:	O Quill
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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Description of Service	Head Start Pre-School was first established in 1998 as a community service and is registered to provide sessional care and education to children aged from 2.5 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates Monday to Friday and provides a morning and afternoon service from 08.30 am to 11.30am and from 12pm to 3pm. 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	The registered provider does not work in the service but was present when the inspector arrived. In total there were seven adults present. One of the adult's present worked in administration. Five of the adults including the designated person in charge worked directly with the children. Two of the adults were employed under a Community employment scheme. All of the adults working directly with the children had completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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 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) Following the previous inspection process in 2018 the service was fully compliant with aspects of Regulation 9 inspected at that time.

Two new staff members were employed since last inspection.

(2)

(a) Two validated references from a past employer were available for two adults.

(b) Not applicable, as the two references provided were from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the new adults employed.

(d) Not applicable, the new adults employed in the service had not lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six months as an adult.

(7) (a) The designated manager confirmed to the inspector that all staff completed online training in relation to infection control and were sent a copy of the updated policies.

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:	Written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were in place for the service. Documents reviewed on this inspection were: • Infection control policy and cleaning procedures. • Covid 19 Policy and response plan. • The risk management policy. • Incident plan. • Revised drop off and collection procedures.
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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.*
- (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) At all times there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. (3) There were seventeen pre-school children being cared for by five adults. (8)(c) Not applicable as the registered provider did not operate the service single-handedly.
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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) The inspector observed the following practices on the day of inspection;

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The atmosphere in the service was relaxed and friendly. Children talked and interacted comfortably with staff.
- The adults were observed to be responsive to each child's individual needs during the inspection. Children were observed participating in group activities and individual play.
- The designated person in charge confirmed the service posted an information booklet to parents prior to reopening the service outlining amended policies and procedures as a result of Coronavirus. Information sheets detailing activities completed are provided for parents at the end of each month. The service also communicates with parents via phone and email.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The three pre-school rooms were equipped with child size tables and chairs. Children were observed to move freely around the rooms, independently choosing toys or equipment from the low level shelving provided.
- Designated areas of interest included a home corner and construction area.
- Children's art work was displayed on the walls of the pre-school rooms.
- Suitable rest areas were available to allow the children to rest as required.
- Children from each room spent time in the outdoor area at a designated time. Each room had their own box of toys they brought to the outdoor area. Children were observed playing with balls, riding scooters and enjoying water play.

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 registered provider had taken measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children, for example:

GENERAL SAFETY:

The entrance to the service was appropriately secured the front door was locked and a bell system was in place to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons gaining access to the pre-school. Cleaning agents were stored in a cupboard at a height inaccessible to the pre-school children. Fire exits were unobstructed.

INFECTION CONTROL:

The environment of the service, play materials and equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic manner. The service had documentary evidence of the daily cleaning schedule.

Each pre-school room and the sanitary accommodation were equipped with a wash hand basin and a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels. Pedal operated bins were provided and hand sanitising units were present in the reception area and within the pre-school rooms. Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly after using the toilet, outdoor play and before eating their snack. Practices were observed in keeping with the services amended infection control policy in light of the Covid-19 pandemic to include the following:

- Restricted movement of staff between pods.
- Daily records of children and adults entering and exiting the service to enable contact tracing.
- Maximising use of the outdoor areas.
- The provision of an area to accommodate a staff member or child who may display symptoms of Covid-19
- Provision of personal protective equipment for use as required.

Non-Compliance Information:

Infection Control

The seating area of the child size sofa in the Blue room was torn posing an infection control risk as it could not be effectively cleaned.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION

We removed the sofa and replaced it with another sofa from one of the other rooms after thoroughly cleaning it.

Part VI - Safety

	<u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The sofa will be checked regularly for any signs of damage.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 29 – Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information:	(e) The nappy changing area provided for the pre-school children was in the staff toilet this area was unsuitable for infection control purposes and appropriate storage for the necessary nappy-changing equipment was not provided.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The staff and girl's toilet have been switched around. The bigger toilet is now the girl's toilet which has room for the nappy changing unit. This has been made and photographic evidence was submitted. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> We will seek advice in the future if we need to change another area.
Summary Comment	The registered provider has addressed the non compliance in Regulation 29; evidence was submitted which meets the regulatory requirement.