

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS179
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Name of Service:	Tallaght Childcare Fettercairn
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Address of Service:	Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre, Fettercairn, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 W92N
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Jackson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	18/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
Title:	Early Years Inspector

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

Tallaght Childcare Fettercairn is one of two community-based services operated by the registered provider. The service is registered to provide full day care including part-time care and a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service caters for children aged from 2- 6 years and operates Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 5:30pm. The early years service is located in Fettercairn Community Centre in a single storey premises. The service comprises of an open plan pre-school room with a kitchenette, sanitary accommodation, staff room and office. An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the service. The service has access to the indoor community hall.

Staffing

In total six adults are employed including the registered provider. The registered provider works between the two services. On inspection four adults were present including the registered provider.

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. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

The inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations.

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9(2) and (4) –Management and Recruitment,

11 – Staffing levels,

25 Record in relation to a pre-school child,

16(h), (i), (j), and (k) – Record in relation to pre-school service.

19(1)(b) Health welfare and development of child.

25 – First Aid and

26 Fire safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 (1)(a) -(i) and Regulation 16 (j) and (k)

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non - compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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.

Acknowledgments

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.

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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) Six staff were employed in the service and an additional staff member from the second service operated by the registered provider arrived during the inspection. The inspection focused on the recruitment records for seven staff as detailed;

(a) Twelve written validated references were provided from a past employer.

(b) Two written validated references were provided from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for seven adults.

(d) Not applicable none of the staff employed in the service had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing that seven adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

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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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were ten children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times as per the staff roster.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of records were reviewed for nine children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.

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- (h) Parents provided a record of immunisations their child had received.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Details of attendance of each child was recorded at time of arrival and departure.
 - (i) The staff roster was available and accurately reflected the adults working in the service on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
 - (k) The service maintained a record of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child. The forms were completed correctly and signed by staff and parents.

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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, and

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The designated person in charge reported that all meals are provided by the service. A morning snack of blueberries, chopped cucumber, cheese and crackers was offered to the children. At lunchtime a hot meal of chicken in a tomato sauce, broccoli and rice was served. Mealtime was relaxed children sat together and were given plenty of time to eat their meal. Drinking water was freely available and at mealtime water or milk were offered to drink. Staff informed the inspector low level beds are available should children want to sleep.

Children were encouraged and observed to use the toilet independently. Younger children's nappies were changed as required during this time staff interacted warmly with the children.

At all times staff spoke kindly to children. Children were actively engaged by staff in a variety of activities throughout the morning including free play, tabletop activities and circle time. Children were observed choosing the activity they wished to play with, and staff supported them. Some children were observed in the home corner engaged in imaginative play. Staff used circle time as an opportunity to help children develop their communication skills. Staff showed children picture cards and they discussed the images. During this time children also sang along to different songs.

The open plan room was well laid out to meet the needs of the children in attendance. Play equipment and materials were easily accessible from the low-level shelving provided. Designated areas of interest included a construction area, home corner, musical instruments, art materials and chalkboards. Each area was adequately resourced. A book stand with a good selection of age-appropriate books was set up beside the designated rest areas. Due to the icy weather conditions children did not go outdoors but were able to avail of the indoor sports hall. Staff were observed doing different physical exercises with the children including running on the spot, touching their toes and jumping jacks. Additional play equipment was available in the sports hall including bikes and balls.

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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:

- Entry to the service was secure, a bell system was in operation to allow authorised access and the pre-school room was secure preventing children from leaving the premises unsupervised.
- All toys and play equipment observed on inspection were safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- All cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean, staff were observed cleaning the tables after snack time and they maintained a record of cleaning completed.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. The children were supervised washing their hands after nappy changing, using the toilet and prior to eating.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an awareness of the procedures to follow when giving medicine to children. Records were available detailing medicines given. These included the signature of the staff member who gave the medicine and the staff who witnessed the medicine being given. The records had been signed by parents indicating the information had been shared.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The bin provided for the disposal of nappies was not pedal operated posing a potential infection control risk.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

The twist and click nappy bin was removed and replaced with a pedal bin. All nappies will be bagged in nappy sacks and disposed of in the pedal bin. A separate pedal bin is used for gloves, disposable aprons and other waste. Pedal bins labelled and staff advised how to use correctly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children 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

- (a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 20 December 2023.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated September 2023 and for the smoke alarms.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the premises.