

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY075			
Name of Service:	An Cosán Early Years Youthreach			
Address of Service:	Ratoath Road, Cabra, Dublin 7.			
Eircode:	D07 FA3P			
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Genockey			
Service type:	Part Time			
Date of Inspection:	23 rd May 2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	20
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, 2 nd Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.			
Inspection undertaken by:	M Foley			
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

The service was established in 2008 and is one of eight An Cosán childcare services. The service is located in Cabra Youthreach building. The service offers part-time and sessional childcare and education to children aged from 2 to 5 years old. Opening times are from 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

There are two childcare rooms located on the ground floor, an office, kitchen, and sanitary accommodation. The outdoor play area situated near the front of the premises is surrounded by wooden fencing.

Staffing

The service employs 6 childcare staff including the registered provider. The registered provider does not work at the service but is available to provide support if needed.

The person in charge is not assigned to the care rooms and is available to provide assistance in the care rooms and cover for staff breaks and when needed.

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

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

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulation 9 (2) & (4), regulation 11 (1) & (2), regulation 15 (a) to (i), regulation 16 (h), (i) & (k), regulation 21, regulation 25. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (a) to (i) and regulation 16 (h), (i) & (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 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

The files for 6 staff members were reviewed. This included the files of the registered provider and 5 childcare staff who work directly with the children.

(2)(a) Three staff members had 2 validated written references from a past employer available for inspection.

One staff member had 1 validated written reference from a past employer available for inspection.

(b) Two staff members had 2 validated written references from a source other than a past employer available for inspection.

One staff member had 1 validated written reference from a source other than a past employer available for inspection.

(c) The required garda vetting documentation was available for inspection in each of the 6 files reviewed.

(d) Two staff members required international police vetting, and this was available for inspection.

(4) Each staff members file had documentary evidence to show that each held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

There were 15 children being cared for by 5 staff members.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained and staff rosters indicated that ratios are maintained.

In the Toddler room, there were 3 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 1 staff member.

In the Pre-school room, there were 12 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff members of which, one staff member who was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) was providing additional support.

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;

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(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) The files of 9 children currently attending the service were reviewed.

The information required to address (a) to (i) above was available on each file.

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;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)

(i) Details of staff rosters were available for inspection.

(k) Seven accident and incident forms were reviewed and they were fully completed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(h) The attendance records for the children in the Toddler room were not completed until 10.30am, after the inspector asked to see the attendance record.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

With immediate effect, all children are signed in on arrival.

With immediate effect, staff gather all paperwork and pens needed beforehand to prevent any signing-in delays.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of attendance record.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance outlined in regulation 16 above.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Both rooms were equipped with an adequate number of low-level tables, chairs and soft furnishings. Lunches provided by parents were stored in the fridge in the service kitchen until needed.

- Each room had a rest and relaxation area, and children were observed relaxing in these areas for short periods on the day. Staff members supported the Childrens choice to retreat to these areas as needed.
- The rooms were well ventilated. Windows were opened.

In the Toddler room.

- The water table was used by the children and associated toys, animals and containers were present to extend the children's play.
- The sand box was open, and contained supportive equipment such as plastic shapes, jugs, spades, and animals. Children were observed playing and chatting at the sand box.
- Some children played with blocks, some played at the well-equipped home area, role play and turn taking was observed.
- One child used large wooden blocks in different shapes to create a ramp and enjoyed playing on it. The staff member provided encouragement and appropriate supervision.

The Pre-school room is an "L" shaped room.

- Areas of interest included a large rest and relaxation area beside the library, a low-level shelving unit with clearly labelled baskets of animals, counters, jigsaws and peg boards.
- A large basket of musical instruments
- A home area which was popular with the children on the day of inspection, role play hair dressing, and make up sessions were observed. Great conversation and discussion were heard while children learned about turn-taking and care of toys and equipment.
- An arts and crafts area with paints, colouring pencils, paper, and bibs were readily available and used on the day.
- A sand box was available and ready with sand and supportive toys in it.

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The outdoor area

- The outdoor area at the front of the premises was safe and the surrounding wooden fencing was maintained. There was a grass area and an all-weather surface area.
- The area had a wooden activity centre which had a short ladder up to a platform with a surrounding wooden fence, a slide down and a swing area.
- Two wooden picnic benches were available and used for tabletop games and to support rest when needed.
- Large plastic blocks in a variety of colours were used to make steps and create a field.
- There was a sand box with toys and utensils and a water table ready for use.
- The children from both rooms enjoyed playtime in the outdoor area on the day of inspection. Staff members were observed to provide supervision and assist at games as needed.

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

(2)(a) & (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was readily available and safely stored in an easily accessible position.

Non-Compliance Information

The two First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates available for inspection had expired. One certificate expired in August 2022 and the other in September 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

FAR Training dates have been scheduled during the summer closure.

Organise future FAR training during closures to prevent future delays or certs expiring.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Dates scheduled for FAR Training:

-19/07

-26/07

-02/08

Summary Comment

The non-compliance outlined in regulation 25 above has not been fully addressed as completion of the FAR course is pending. It is acknowledged that training will be completed during the summer closure in preparation for reopening.