

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY199
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Name of Service:	Fine & Dandy Limited
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Address of Service:	Room 9-10 St. Malachy's National School, St Helena's Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D11 Y880
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Name of Registered Provider:	Gillian Dandy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	01/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	8
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Kerrigan
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).

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Conditions if applicable

Not applicable.

Description of service

This Sessional service is located in room 9 and 10 of St Malachy's National School which is in a residential area of Finglas. Opening times are from 8.45am to 12.15pm and from 12.30 to 4pm daily. The service consists of 2 care rooms: the Busy Bee's and Butterfly rooms both of which have sanitary facilities within each room. There is a kitchenette dividing each room with an office located off the Busy Bee's room.

The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme which is delivered over 38 weeks. The maximum number of children the service can cater for is 44 children aged from two to six years of age.

Staffing

The registered provider is involved in the daily running of the service and employs 5 childcare staff. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and designated person in charge facilitated the inspection and provided cover in the care rooms.

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, safety, premises and facilities*. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The Inspection focused on examination of compliance under the following Regulations:

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- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment – (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4)
- Regulation 10
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(3)(8) (c)
- Regulation 16 (h)(i)(j)(k)
- Regulation 19(a)
- Regulation 23
- Regulation 25(1)(2)(a)(b)
- Regulation 28
- Regulation 29

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(k). As a result, the scope of the inspection included all rooms.

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

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(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

- (1)
- (a) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person and a named person in charge were present at all times throughout the inspection.
- (2) The records of six staff members employed in the service, including the registered provider were reviewed.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were seven written and validated references from past employers available for 4 staff members who work directly with the children.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that a written and validated referenced from a reputable source was available for one staff member who has direct access to children.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 6 members of staff inclusive of the registered provider.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting records were not required as none of the adults lived abroad.

(4) Each employee working directly with the children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider did not have 2 written and validated references for one staff member available on the day of inspection. The registered provider did not validate one written reference from a previous employer and one written reference from a reputable source for one staff member on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider stated that references have been rung and verified. The registered provider stated that all paperwork will be filled and filed after interview processes and before a new person starts in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)(b) Photographic evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9.

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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

The registered provider ensured that the required written policies, procedures, and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service. The content of the following policies was reviewed and met the requirement of the regulations:

- Statement of Purpose and Function.
- Complaints Policy.
- Policy of Administration of Medication.
- Policy on Infection control.
- Policy on Managing Behaviour.
- Fire Safety Policy.
- Inclusion Policy.
- Policy on Accident and Incidents.
- Policy on Authorisation to Collect Children.
- Policy on Healthy Eating.
- Policy on the Use of the Internet and Photographic and Recording Devices.
- Settling – In Policy.

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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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of Inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

- In the morning session there were 5 adults working with 21 children aged 2 years 8 months of age to 4 years of age.
- In the afternoon session there were 3 adults to include the registered provider working with 8 children aged from 2 years 1 month to 2 years 7 months.

(3) On the day of Inspection, the adult to child ratio was maintained as follows.

- Busy Bees's room: 13 children being cared for by 3 staff members.
- Butterfly room (Morning session): 8 children cared for by 2 staff members.
- Butterfly Room (Afternoon session): 8 children cared for by 3 staff members.

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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) The registered provider ensured that there was a record in writing available within the service on the day of inspection this included the following:

- (h) There was a written record in book form noting the daily attendance of each child who attends the service.
- (i) The registered provider ensured that there was a written record of staff rosters available within the service.
- (j) Through conversation staff stated that medication is not administered frequently within the service. A recent written record of medication administered to one child was reviewed, the record was completed in full.
- (1)(k) A sample of 5 accident and incident records were reviewed and were found to be completed in full.

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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)

Basic Needs

- To encourage socialisation around mealtime, staff spoke about children's differing food preferences and engaged children to explore foods in a child led manner. For example, a child was noted to not have brought lunch or a drink to school. Staff members invited this child to eat and drink with their peers by supplying cereals, toast and a drink, of which the child ate, ensuring their dietary and fluid intake was adequate to meet the demands of the school day.
- Children were observed to enjoy freedom of movement and were unrestricted in both care rooms, moving between activities in line with their own interests.
- Children were supported to use the toilet independently with staff available to assist if needed.

Physical and Material environment

- Care rooms were bright and interesting, they were constructively planned to provide a range of developmentally appropriate, creative, and enriching experiences for the children.
- Low level tables, chairs and shelving allowed children to access materials independently and engage in mealtimes and tabletop activities comfortably.
- Toys and materials were displayed neatly and easily accessible to the children in clearly defined interest areas with an adequate number of supporting materials which supported independent spontaneous play experiences.
- Evidence of children's art was displayed in both care rooms and children were observed to engage with open ended art and sensory materials which were available to the children.
- Mindful practices such as yoga were used in the Butterfly room to support children's systemic regulation.

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Supporting relationships

- Children were given a verbal cue to signal when an activity was coming to an end and staff detailed what would happen next. Music was also used as a tool to support transitions, for example tidy up time and end of day play.
- Family photos were displayed on the walls in each care room, this supports children to understand the link between home and playschool, supported their sense of identity and belonging and provided comfort to the children.
- Staff discussed the importance of communicating with parents and reported using drop off and pick up times as opportunities to briefly discuss issues with parents if needed. A closed mobile application system was also used within the service to communicate with parents, consent was obtained for use of same.
- In the Butterfly room staff worked in a seamless manner supporting each other to meet the needs of the children. For example, a child's toileting cue was picked up by one staff member, who was supporting a group of 6 children, this child was encouraged to use the toilet independently with another staff member monitoring them without being intrusive, building the child's confidence around their own ability with the support of their teachers.

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:

- Low level presses were locked, with hazardous cleaning materials and equipment being stored on high shelving away from children.
- Window blinds and trailing flexes were secured and away from the reach of children.
- The kitchenette was secured at each end with locked gates, preventing children from accessing hazardous equipment within.
- Flooring was clean, non-slip, with uneven areas highlighted to prevent trips.
- The outdoor area was fully secured with fencing and a locked gate. Soft mulch and grass of differing levels was underfoot to ensure a soft impact if a child was to fall.

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Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled water along with liquid soap and single use cloth handtowels were available to each child and adult within each sanitary area and care room. Handwashing was undertaken at schedule times throughout the day and available to children if needed outside these times, as observed when children partook in messy play
- Upon arrival to the service perishable food items brought in from home were refrigerated in each child's individual lunch box, ensuring adherence to safe food storage guidelines.
- Staff members attended to all cleaning duties within the service with cleaning schedules maintained and available within the service.

Administration of Medication:

On discussion with staff medication is rarely administered. Through conversation staff are aware of the safe administration of medication if prescribed for a child which was in keeping with the service policy.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were unblocked, and fire records demonstrated monthly fire drills have been completed. Staff were able to discuss fire evacuation procedures with detailed maps clearly displayed on walls.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Upon the unannounced arrival to the service the inspector noted that the main door to the service was not securely locked, at this time the door to the Busy Bee's room which is located beside the main door was also noted to be unsecured and could be pushed open. Due to these unsecured doors, children were potentially able to exit the service unsupervised whilst unauthorised persons could enter posing a risk to children. This was discussed with the person in charge and the doors were secured.

Infection Control:

2. There was no lidded bin in Busy Bee's care room, general waste and food stuffs were noted to be placed in this bin. Children were able to place their hands directly into the bin resulting in exposure to harmful bacteria.
3. There was no toilet seat in the sanitary area of the Butterfly room. Potentially exposing children to unhygienic toileting and did not provide for their comfort.
4. The rug on the floor within the Butterfly room was dirty and worn, this limited effective cleaning of this area which was used as a rest area for this room.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1.The registered provider stated that the finger guard on door had become unattached, catching in the door frame preventing it from closing properly. Finger guards will be checked on a regular basis.

Infection Control:

- 2.The registered provider stated that the bin has been replaced with same model foot operated. Bins will be checked when getting cleaned every day to prevent any future problems. All staff have been shown how to fix problems with bin lids and how to affix them to the bin.
3. The registered provider states that the toilet seat has been replaced and a handy man will do any work that is needed as soon as the problem arises.
4. The registered provider states that all rugs have been removed and disposed of. Rugs brought into the service will be washable.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence has been submitted.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

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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) There were four persons trained in First Aid Response (FAR) available to children attending the service.

(2) (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises, staff was aware of its location.

(b) A fully stocked first aid box was readily available to children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider has ensured that the premises was insured to include 44 children who can attend the service at one time with an expiry date of 27th of March 2025.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

- (e)
- The Busy Bee's Room: there is 2 low level toilets with 2 wash hand basins available to 22 children. This area also holds a drop down wipeable changing table. Ventilation was observed to be working effectively on the day of inspection.

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- The Butterfly room: there was 2 low level toilets with 2 low level sinks for 10 children who have use of this room. Ventilation was observed to be working effectively on the day of inspection.
- Both sanitary areas are located off the main care rooms.