

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY216

Name of Service: The Orchard Playschool

Address of Service: 19 The Orchard
Killester
Dublin 5

Email Address: ericandmandy@eircom.net

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ms Mandy Stephenson

Type of service registered: Sessional ☒

Date of Inspection: 1 5 1 0 2 0 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 15 PM 9

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child and Family Agency
Dublin North East
Ground Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building,
Block 6A,
Blanchardstown Corporate Park,
Dublin 15

Inspection undertaken by: Ms AM Coyle
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety
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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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016
REF: F09: Version 1: RN 9: 20.07.2020

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Description of Service	The Orchard playschool is a sessional early years' service which offers sessional preschool care and education to children aged from 2 years 8 months to the time they commence attendance at primary school through an emerging play based curriculum. The early years service is located in a purpose built building adjacent to the registered providers home in Killester on the north side of Dublin city. The service operates Monday to Friday with 2 sessions provided from 9am until 12midday and from 12:30pm until 3:30pm The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Staffing	There were 2 adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider and both staff members were working directly with the children.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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/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 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, 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:	Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge of operating the service it was confirmed that there were no new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. (7) (a) There was evidence available in the service, in the form of signed declarations by staff members, that the registered provider ensured that all staff members were appropriately supervised and provided with relevant information and training, in relation to the service's infection control policy, incident plan, risk management policy, hand washing procedures, revised drop off and collection procedures and revised cleaning procedures.
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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 service had all of the policies, procedures and statements required under schedule 5. A number of the policies had been updated recently to reflect changing practices due to Covid-19. All of the services policies, procedures and statements that were required to be available for parents had been sent to them in advance of their children returning to the service. A copy of the policies and procedures were available in the service.
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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) There were 2 adults working directly with 15 children attending the pre-school service on the morning of inspection.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service at all times on the day of inspection.

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:

During the inspection the staff members were found to meet the children's individual and collective needs in a warm and respectful way as evidenced by the following examples:

Supporting Relationships around Children:

- The children were familiar with the adults who were caring for them. The children were observed to engage comfortably with the staff members present and sought out staff for assistance and support when necessary.
- The children were supported and encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included: using the toilet, dressing for outdoors, caring for their belongings, tidying away after activities.
- The staff spoke to all children in a positive and respectful way and listened attentively to each child. Staff were observed offering choices to children, using the child's name, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to all children and facilitating age appropriate choice.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The 2 Staff members in the service were friendly and relaxed with each other and the care procedures and planned activities were smoothly implemented.
- Parents were warmly welcomed in the service and staff were observed interacting with them at collection.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The organisation of the play environment in the care room encouraged and supported the children's independence and self-directed play. Play resources were available to the children on low level shelves to facilitate them to take and return materials as they chose.
- The care room was laid out in defined interest areas and was well-resourced with equipment and play materials including a large art easel with paints, a pretend shop with a life-size cash register, a well-resourced home corner, a reading and relaxation area and an extensive range of equipment for table top activities all of which supported all areas of development and facilitated the children in an emerging play curriculum.
- The children enjoyed outdoor play on the day of inspection. The outdoor area was well resourced with 2 slides, a large sand pit, a play house, play kitchen with associated equipment, ride on toys and wall mounted black boards for the children to play with. Additionally, a planting area and two benches were provided.

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:

It was observed that the service had taken measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children in attendance as demonstrated by the following examples:

General Safety:

- The premise was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years' service.
- The water temperature in the sinks in the sanitary accommodation was thermostatically-controlled and did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the pre-school children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Clear signage was on display at the entrance gate into the premises advising parents and children not to attend should they be experiencing the named symptoms of Covid-19. Drop-off and collection times were staggered to reduce congregation at the gate.
- Thermostatically controlled running warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at all wash hand basins. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser was also provided in the service. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed during the inspection; children's hands were washed on arrival to the service, prior to snack time, following outdoor play and after using the toilet. Children were supervised when carrying out hand hygiene.
- The service operated both a morning and an afternoon session in the same care room. Separate resources were used for both groups in addition to cleaning processes occurring between the 2 sessions and cleaning schedules were maintained.
- A separate area is available in the care room should it be required in the event of a child or staff member becoming unwell while attending the service.
- The care room and the sanitary area in the service were adequately ventilated by opening the windows.
- The waste disposal bins were foot operated and were observed being used correctly on the day of inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Safe Sleep:

- There was a suitable comfortable rest area available in the care room comprising of 2 armchairs alongside a library area should a pre-school child wish to rest, relax or take a break from activities during the day.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children

Additional Significant Risk Identified

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.

Non-Compliance Information: (1) There was no staff member in the service who was trained in first aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The service has been in contact with multiple companies in relation to First Aid Responder courses, all of which take place within the working week and the service is unable to attend due to preschool hours. The service has been in contact with a company and currently are awaiting a course start date for a weekend First Aid Responder course.

Preventive Action

The service will ensure the first aid training does not expire and will rebook the course to take place just before the certificates are due to expire.

Evidence Submitted

None.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in the corrective and preventive actions will address the non-compliance once evidence of the training has taken place and certificates are submitted. The compliance for regulation 25 remains outstanding.