

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY253
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Name of Service:	Eala Og Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	GoldenBridge Integrated Services Complex, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D08 YWN2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Philomena Mc Sorley
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Service type:	Full Day Care
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Date(s) of Inspection:	15/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	12
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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	N/A

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Description of service

Eala Og Childcare centre is a community-based service located in an urban, residential area in Inchicore, Dublin 8. The service is registered to provide full day care and operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 1pm and caters for children aged 2-6 years. The early years service is located in an adapted two storey multi-purpose community building. Care of the children is facilitated across two pre-school rooms located on the ground floor. The Caterpillar room caters for children aged (2-3 years) and the Pre-school room caters for children aged (3-5 years). An outdoor play area is provided on the premises.

Staffing

In total eight staff are employed in the service including the designated person in charge and cook. On the 15 May 2023 seven adults were present. The designated person in charge worked directly with the children when providing relief for staff breaks.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 – Management and Recruitment, 11 – Staffing Levels, 16 – Record in relation to Pre-school service, 19 – Health, welfare and development of child,

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23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child, 25 – First Aid and 26 – Fire Safety. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 – Record in relation to Pre-school service. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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)/(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises.

(2) Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that five new members of staff were employed in the service since the last inspection on 15 March 2021. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these new staff members and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the ten validated, written references that were required, five were available from a past employer.

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- (b) A further five validated, written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for five adults.
- (d) Not applicable as none of the new staff employed in the service had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) A record was available evidencing that five staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) It was not evident that the procedures outlined under regulation 9(2)(a) & (b) regarding reviewing and validating references from a past employer or source other than a past employer had been carried out prior to the employment of four staff.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

On recruitment new staff are required to submit 2 written references from a past employer and they must be validated prior to start date. The service will use a checklist going forward to ensure the required documentation is received and validated in a timely manner.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 9 (3). Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

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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 was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twelve children attending the service being supervised by five adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times.

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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)(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) A sample of accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

Non-Compliance Information

(h) In the pre-school room eight children were present and only seven children were recorded on the room register.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff have been spoken to regarding signing in children and signing out children. The room leader is responsible to ensure all children are signed in on arrival and out on departure. The Project leader is responsible for carrying out spot checks to ensure it is recorded accordingly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence as stated.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 16(h). Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

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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)

Staff reported meals are provided by the service including breakfast and a hot meal. The service had a healthy eating policy. At lunchtime children were served scrambled eggs on toast. Suitable cutlery was provided. Children were offered milk and water with their meal. The atmosphere was relaxed and sociable. Staff and children sat together and engaged in conversation.

Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and children's nappies were changed when needed.

Throughout the morning children were actively engaged in a variety of activities including free play, table-top activities, circle time and dancing to music. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to manage minor behaviour issues well by the use of distraction and comforted children as needed.

Appropriately sized tables and chairs were available within the rooms for meals and table-top activities.

Both pre-school rooms had low level shelving making equipment and materials visible and accessible to children. A variety of books were available in both rooms. Designated areas of interest included home corner and construction areas. Each area was well equipped with suitable materials. Cosy areas were available in both rooms to allow the children to rest as required.

All children spent time in the outdoor area together. Children were observed to enjoy this time playing various games with each other and staff. A variety of equipment was available to the children including, bikes, cars, scooters, blocks, balls and a slide.

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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:

- External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely, and no hazards were observed on the day of inspection.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and staff maintained a record of cleaning.
- Wash hand basins were available in both pre-school rooms to facilitate hand washing. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels was provided. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play and using the toilet and before meals.
- Pedal operated bins were provided for waste.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed and the fire assembly point was clearly marked with suitable signage.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Nappy changing practices observed on the day of inspection in the service was inadequate for infection control purposes. Staff did not follow the nappy changing policy and were observed redressing the children while wearing the same soiled gloves used for nappy changing. Children's hands were not washed after nappy changing. This non-compliance was observed on the last inspection on the 15 March 2021. The corrective and preventive actions submitted have not addressed this.
2. In the Pre-School room the cover on the child size seating was torn making it not possible to clean effectively.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. All staff has been updated on our nappy changing policy and the project leader has demonstrated the correct procedure to ensure that staff adhere the policy. The project leader is carrying out spot checks to ensure there is not a risk of cross contamination.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

2. Removed seating in room and replaced it with soft round wipe able cushions for children to choose and sit until seating is replaced or re-covered.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance under Regulation 23 infection control. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

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 paediatric first aid was at all times immediately available to the children.

(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 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was completed on the 17 April 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 6 September 2022 and the 2 May 2023 for the smoke alarms.