

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL029
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Name of Service:	Blakestown Community Crèche
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Address of Service:	Blakestown Way Blanchardstown Dublin 15
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Email Address:	veronacampbell@msn.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Susan Fox
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Type of service registered:	Part Time	☒
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Date of Inspection:	2	1	0	4	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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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
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms D. Murray
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety

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	Blakestown Community Crèche was first established in 1996. The operational hours for the service are: Room 1 operates from 09:15am to 12:15pm and from 1pm to 4:30pm, Room 2 operates from 09:15pm to 2pm and 1pm to 4pm. The service offers sessional/part time pre-school care & education to children from 2 to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Staffing	Present on the day of inspection were the designated person in charge and 4 childcare staff. The service employs a total of 5 staff. All childcare staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or equivalent.
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 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. 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, 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:

(2) (a), (b), (c) and (d) From a review of the service file and discussion with the designated person in charge, it was confirmed that there were no new staff members employed since the last inspection.

(7)(a) Documentary evidence available and on discussion with the designated person in charge assurance was provided that all staff members were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary in-service training with regard to updated policies, procedure and safety measures in preparation for reopening following closure due to Covid-19.

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 written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were updated to support and facilitate the safe operation of the service during the Covid-19 period. The service submitted the requested policies to the Inspectorate in advance of the inspection and these were found to be robust and comprehensive. The infection control policy had been updated to include infection control measures for Covid-19 and included an enhanced cleaning schedule. An incident plan was available which outlined the actions to be taken in the event that a child or staff member displayed symptoms of or developed Covid-19.

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) On the day of Inspection there were the designated person in charge and 4 adults working directly with the 18 children in attendance. The minimum adult/child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

The children and adults were divided into 2 play pods.

- In **Room 1**, there were 2 adults with 12 children ranging in age between 2 years 8 months to 4 years.
- In **Room 2**, there were 2 adults with 6 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years.

The designated person in charge was able to provide additional support if needed.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the day in line with the recommended ratios taking into consideration the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service.

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:

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- The service operated as two pods and the children were cared for by the same adults each day. The children were very comfortable and relaxed in their environment and sought out staff members when needed.
- Care procedures and planned activities were smoothly implemented with assistance available as required.
- The adults demonstrated sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for the children as evidenced in the positive use of language and soft tones. The adults were observed to be responsive to the children's needs for praise, encouragement and reassurance.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Staff members engaged in the play activities with the children which included table top activities, free play and role play. Fun interaction and jovial conversation was observed.
- Parents were communicated with by email and by phone to limit the time spent on the premises at drop off and collection.

Physical and Material Environment:

- In both care rooms, there was a variety of equipment which meets the needs of the children attending the service. Equipment included toy musical instruments, dolls area, building blocks, wooden puzzles, home area with utensils, sand/water table, book shelves, construction area and art and crafts materials.
- The outdoor area was enclosed with a steel railing and a secure gate. The surface area consisted of artificial grass surface and equipment included a wooden play house, sand container, wooden mud kitchen, picnic bench, musical wall and pouring containers. Each care room has use of the outdoor space at different times to avoid mixing of the 2 pods.

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:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The reception area was monitored by staff from the community centre which prevented a child from exiting unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- All visitors to the service have to sign in which included contact details to enable contact tracing in the event of a case of Covid-19.
- All staff members had received in service training and had completed the Covid-19 Return to Work Questionnaire.
- Covid-19 information was given to parents and all parents must complete a Return to Childcare Questionnaire form if a child is absent.
- Two metre distance notices were placed outside the service doors to ensure social distancing was maintained at arrival and collection time to avoid congregations.
- Each care room had a separate entrance and exit to prevent the mixing of pods.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Infection Control:

- Additional Covid-19 cleaning schedules were available and the care rooms and sanitary facilities were in a hygienic condition. There was a process in place for the cleaning of toys and equipment on a daily basis.
- Liquid soap, paper hand towels and warm water not exceeding 43°C was available at the wash hand basin in the sanitary facilities. Hand sanitisers were available in different locations throughout the service and at the main doors.
- Hand hygiene pictorial posters were positioned throughout the service to remind staff and children on the appropriate hand washing and sanitising techniques. Children's hands were washed, after toileting, before eating lunch and returning from outdoor play. The Staff members washed and sanitised her hands at required intervals throughout the session.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available for waste disposal in the care rooms.
- An adequate supply of personal protective equipment was available in the service.
- A separate isolation room was available with a window for ventilation should it be required in the event of a child becoming unwell while attending the service.

Rest Area:

- Mats and wipeable cushions were available in both care rooms should a pre-school child wish to rest, relax or take a break from activities during the day.