

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL029
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Blakestown Community Creche
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Address of Service:	Blakestown Way, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D15 TX62
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Gorman
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	23/04/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	18
-----------------------------------	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: tu2015FL029	1 of 12
--	---	---------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Blakestown Community Creche is a part-time service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 22 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 9.15am to 12.15pm and from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.

Blakestown Community Creche operates from two care rooms within Blakestown Community Centre. The are sanitary facilities located off Room 1, and access to further sanitary facilities for Room 2. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to front of the premises.

Staffing

There are currently five staff employed by the service who work directly with the children. There are also a further two staff who are employed through the Community Employment (CE) scheme who work in the service and are undergoing training. There were five staff present on the day of the inspection including the deputy person in charge, two childcare staff and two CE staff. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Regulation 9(1),(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 11(1),(2), Staffing Levels
- Regulation 19(1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety and Welfare of the Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 8. This finding is outlined within the relevant regulation 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 deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not notify the agency in relation to a move of one of the pre-school rooms to a new location within the building though a change in circumstance application for the proposed change.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

A change in circumstance form was submitted to the inspectorate on the 21 May 2024.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of CIC submission.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the action submitted. Additional information has been requested from the registration team in order to approve the Change of Circumstance application which is currently under review.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy person in charge was present during the inspection.

(2) Seven files were reviewed on the day of the inspection, including two CE staff. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a)(b) Eight validated written references were available from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer for four of the staff files reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes for one staff member as outlined in the Years Inspectorate

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Documentary evidence showed that four adults had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults and international police vetting from that state was available for inspection.

(4) The five staff who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure the following:

(2)(a)(b) Documentation was not available to demonstrate that the references had been checked or validated for three of the staff files reviewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

All Staff referees have been contacted and references have been verified.

Preventive Action

Verification of reference has been added to the list of documents needed and ticked completed for all staff under their individual checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of validations for references.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(a)(b) has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their basic care needs. There were three staff available to the 18 children, with two additional staff available in the care rooms.

(4) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Three staff were allocated to work directly with the 18 children who were present on the day of the inspection with a breakdown as follows:

- Room 1 - 2 adults to 11 children aged between 2-4 years old.
- Room 2 - 1 adult to 7 children aged between 3-5 years old.

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) the registered provider ensured the child's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated in the service. For example:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Basic Needs:

- Toileting was observed to be a respectable and sensitive experience for children. The children were supported to use the toilet independently, and a child who was toilet training was encouraged and praised in their efforts and was immediately tended to in a sensitive and caring manner after a toileting incident had occurred.
- Drinks of water were visible and available in the care rooms, and the children were given time to sit and eat their snacks in a sociable manner. Snacks were provided by parents, but staff reported that they provided an alternative should the parent forget to send in a snack.
- Children who may have additional care needs were supported with individual care plans, where their strengths and challenges were identified, and specific resources were utilised.
- Positive strategies were used to support children's behaviour such as clear verbal instruction, visual display of the daily routine, and responding immediately to children's verbal requests and non-verbal gestures.

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were familiar with the children and their families, and these relationships were facilitated through conversations at drop off and collection.
- The adults were observed to use strategies such as low tones, careful positioning in care rooms, warmth, responsiveness and respect when engaging with the children.
- Staff displayed a sense of awareness on barriers to inclusion and were observed to use communication strategies such as using the child first language and using non-verbal language to support children's inclusion in the service.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture and equipment used in the care rooms was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending. Equipment was visible and accessible to the children.
- There was images of the children and products of their recent art and craft activities displayed throughout the room which facilitated a sense of welcome and belonging.
- There was a range of equipment available to facilitate a range of play opportunities such as creative play, role play, sensory play and language play.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- There was a cosy area available where the children could take a break and engage in more restful activities.

Programme of Activities:

- Play was the central mode of learning, and staff reported their recent engagement with an evolving child led programme where emergent and flexible themes informed the planning.
- The children had the freedom to move throughout the room and independently access equipment, promoting choice and independent decision making.

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

The registered provider ensured the following measures were in place:

General Safety:

- The doors to each of the care rooms were locked with the latch up high out of reach of the children to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- Radiators were fitted with protective covers.

Infection Control:

- Appropriate pedal operated waste disposal units were in use in the care rooms and sanitary accommodation.
- Gloves and aprons were available if required in the sanitary accommodation.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were observed to be unobstructed.
- Fire evacuation plans with imagery were displayed down low visible to children to encourage familiarity with the evacuation process.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The water temperature in the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation used by the children in Room 2 exceeded the recommended temperature of 43°C. A temperature of 44.7°C was recorded by the inspector at 10.15am. This posed a potential scald risk to the children.
2. The Garda vetting disclosure that was available for one staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Infection Control:

3. There was no liquid hand soap accessible to the children by the hand wash basin in the sanitary accommodation used by the children in Room 2. The hand soap available was in a dispenser up high out of reach of the children. This limited effective hand washing and thereby increased the potential risk of cross contamination.

Fire Safety:

4. The details of the attendance of the children in one of the care rooms was not recorded in either the attendance book or the online software application when the inspector checked the records at 9.40am. Seven children had been present in the room since 9.15am. Contemporaneous accurate attendance logs must be maintained to support the safe evacuation of children in an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. **Corrective action:** a thermostat was fitted to the sink to control the heat of the water.
2. **Corrective action:** Garda vetting renewal was updated and received.
Preventive action: Renewal dates to be added to the front of staff folder for Garda vetting and first Aid to ensure all documentation is up to date.

Infection Control:

3. **Corrective action:** Soap dispenser lowered in room 2 toilet area in reach of children.
Preventive action: Soap dispenser lowered.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

4. **Corrective action:** A staff meeting was called to highlight the importance of marking the children's attendance on arrival.

Preventive action: Highlighted the safety risk in case of emergency for all staff to ensure the children's attendance is document and the importance of using a paper back up – roll book as Wi-Fi may not be available at the designated assemble point.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Documentary and photographic evidence of works completed.
2. Copy of renewed vetting disclosure.

Infection Control:

3. Photographic evidence.

Fire Safety:

4. No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each of the care rooms.

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.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1)
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises. Evidence was available that fire drills were carried out monthly with the last drill carried out on the 12 March 2024.
 - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers which were maintained on 27 September 2023 and for the smoke alarms which were maintained on the 8 January 2024.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in each of the care rooms.