

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL194							
Name of Service:	Little Treasures Playgroup							
Address of Service:	11 Lily's Way Ongar Green Clonee Dublin 15							
Email Address:	sandraplaygroup@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Sandra Prendergast							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	1	3	0	2	2	0	2	0
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		9		PM			
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 D Murray							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	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).

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



Registration Status (completed by the Registration Office):	Registered
Conditions If Applicable	Not Applicable
Date of Registration	26 th May 2020

Description of Service	Little Treasures Playgroup is a privately owned business established in 2004. The service provides a sessional pre-school service for children aged between 2 years 7 months to school going age, from 9:15am-12:15pm and from 12.30-3.30pm each weekday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) and caters for a maximum of 11 pre-school children at each session.
Premises	The service is located in the front room of the registered provider's house and consists of 1 care room with sanitary facilities. The service also has an outdoor area to the rear of the premises which children have access to on a daily basis.
Staffing	On the day of inspection the registered provider and 1 staff member were present. Both staff members hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above as per the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or equivalent.
Methodology	The inspection was an unannounced Focused Inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the themes of Governance, Health Welfare Development of the Child and Safety. The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the Inspection report and presented to the Registration Panel for consideration of a decision in relation to the service receiving continued registration. The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity; completeness; and, compliance with administrative and legal purposes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector would like to acknowledge the co-operation of registered provider, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and
- (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:	(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection and was present throughout the period of inspection. (2)(a) Not applicable as no staff member had written references from a past employer. (b) The following references were available from a reputable source; • One staff member had 2 written references from a source other than a previous employer. • One staff member had 2 validated written references from a source other than a previous employer. (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 2 staff members. (d) Not applicable as no staff member had lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult. (4) Two staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. (6)(a)&(b) Not applicable. (6)(a) One staff member was employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.
-------------------------	--

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 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)—*
(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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3) The correct adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the period of inspection. There were 2 adults working with 9 pre-school children present on the day of inspection.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as the service is not operated single-handedly.

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:

- (1)(a)
- Basic Needs:**
- The staff members demonstrated care and attention to the children in attendance.
 - The children brought their own lunch which mostly consisted of sandwiches, crackers, fruit and yogurts. There was a very relaxed atmosphere in the service with lots of conversation and interaction between the children and staff members.
 - The staff members encouraged the pre-school children to develop self-care skills which included: feeding, using the toilet, dressing for home, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The staff members engaged in play activities with the children which included table top activities, art and crafts, singing and storytelling. The staff members were observed offering choices to children, using the child's name, making eye contact and speaking in warm tones.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The care room had play equipment on shelving which was freely available and accessible to the children. Areas of interest included art and crafts, kitchen area, book shelf, Hospital box, dress-up rail, wooden puzzles and building blocks. Wall space in the care room was used to display plentiful samples of the children's curricular themed art work and family photographs.
- The service valued outdoor play which supported and promoted children's health, welfare and development. The suitable safe and secure outdoor area consisted of a paving surface and a storage unit for storing play equipment.

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:

Infection Control:

The infection control policy was implemented in practice.

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels were available at the wash hand basin in the sanitary accommodation.
- Children's hands were washed after using the toilet and before eating lunch.
- A cleaning schedule was available for the service.
- The service was in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Tables were sanitised before lunch.
- Children's lunches were stored in a refrigerator.

Administration of Medication:

- There was a policy in place for the administration of medication to pre-school children in the service, including emergency medication.
- Parental consent is sought prior to the administration of prescribed and non-prescribed medication.
- Documentation available included the signature of the staff member upon administration of medication and provision for the child's parent/guardian to sign on collection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

General Safety:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main entrance door to the service was appropriately secured. The entrance door required to be opened manually thereby prohibiting children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service.
- The range of play materials and equipment in the service were stored on stable-based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the age and stage of development of the pre-school children present in the service.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Children did not have access to the kitchen as the door remained closed during the inspection.

Rest Area:

- A rest area was available in a tent located in the care room should a child need to rest and take a break from activities.

Outings:

- The registered provider stated that outings are not conducted from the service.

Fire Safety:

- The registered provider was aware of evacuation procedures in the event of a fire. The registered provider stated that the fire assembly point was located outside the service on the public pathway.

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 paediatric first aid was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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:

- (1)(a) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 07/02/2020.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment on the premises. Fire fighting equipment and the mains powered smoke alarm was last serviced in October 2019.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the care room.