

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL247
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Name of Service:	Playdays Playschool
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Address of Service:	48 Luttrellstown Way, Castleknock Dublin 15
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Email Address:	Playdays@upcmail.ie
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms. Siobhan Brady
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☒
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Date(s) of Inspection:	2	9	0	4	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	21	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Heuston South Quarter, St John's Rd W, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms. A Dunne
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	This sessional service is located in Castleknock, Dublin 15. There were 21 children present for the morning session and 10 children present for the afternoon session on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday and is registered to operate two sessions between 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm each day. The premises is a purpose built extension to the side of the registered providers house with two care rooms.
Staffing	There were four adults present on the day of inspection and all four were working directly with the children including the registered provider.
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.
Additional Information	
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:

Two staff files were reviewed and the following was observed:

- (2) (a) Four validated references were present from previous employers.
 - (b) Not Applicable as no references were required from a source other than a previous employer.
 - (c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was available for the two staff members.
 - (d) Not Applicable as Police vetting not required for the two staff members.
- (7)(a) Evidence of Documentation was available to demonstrate that staff had been updated and received training in regard to the revised policies of the service, to include: Infection control risk, risk management and incident plan, training on correct procedure for hand washing, revised drop off and collection procedures and the revised procedures for cleaning and infection control.

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:

Policies and procedures have been updated recently to reflect changing practices due to Covid-19. All of the services revised policies, procedures and statements were made available by emailing of the Covid-19 policy and response plan to parents. Staff members were updated through in- service training and e-learning on the new policies and procedures specific to the reopening of the service as per the services Covid-19 Policy.

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 an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the preschool service.
- (3) The correct adult /child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. There were 4 adults working directly with the 21 children present for the morning session and 1 adult working directly with 10 children for the afternoon session in the service.
- (8)(c) Not applicable as service 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:

Supporting Relationships around Children

- From discussions with the registered provider and from documentation review, it was evident that updates of the children are shared with parents. This is completed primarily through phone messaging and verbally at drop off and pick up or with one to one meetings when necessary.
- For Covid-19 Policy and response plan information, documentation observed by the inspector, showed that parents were notified by email of updated policies of the service, demonstrating partnership with parents.
- During the inspection, the inspector observed children taking part in free choice activities both indoors and outdoors. Children were with their peers and together played with construction blocks and played in imaginative play games, supported by staff enhancing the social development of the children.
- Children were supported to engage both independently and in groups in play activities both indoor and outdoor through positive affirmation from staff supporting each child's wellbeing and curiosity.
- Staff were observed to use positive language when speaking with the children while joining in activities with the children developing the children's social skills.
- The children sat having lunch together, promoting social interaction with their peers, developing their well-being.

Physical and Material Environment

- All the equipment was accessible to the children on low level shelving with areas supported such as a home corner (kitchen, kitchen equipment, doctor sets, dentist sets, play laptops), construction (building blocks, jigsaws, play builder tools), Imaginative play toys (dolls houses, dolls, small animal dolls, trains and train tracks) and Montessori equipment was also present.
- Dress up clothes were available for the children to access if required.
- Low level chairs and tables were in use for the children to complete activities at and to eat from.
- There were two soft couches and a soft bench for the children to use to relax or read books on when required.
- The enclosed outdoor play area was secure with a soft artificial surface and a canopy cover over head, where the children engaged in outdoor play with a play house, climbing frame, tables containing construction toys, slide, tyres and garages with cars available for play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The children enjoyed outdoor play for extended periods of time as observed during the inspection and as per the service policy.

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

- The inspector observed children brought lunches from home in individual boxes and on arrival to school the children placed the lunch boxes on a table, the registered provider then disinfected the boxes by wiping and places all lunch boxes in a fridge for storage as per the service infection control policy.
- The entrance and exit door was secure with high locks out of children's reach, preventing children from exiting the service and preventing unauthorised adults from entering.
- The outdoor area to the back of the service was secure with fencing to prohibit unauthorised entry or children exiting the area.
- Cleaning agents and hand sanitisers were stored safely and out of reach of children.
- The arrival and departure times were recorded in attendance records for both staff and children and were reviewed by the inspector during the inspection.

Infection Control

- Through discussion with the staff, it was demonstrated that they were familiar with procedures in place, if a child or a member of staff became unwell while attending the service, for example symptoms of Covid-19, were the isolation area in the service was with the required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) available, the requirement to restrict movements and the importance of notifying the registered provider if unwell, as per the service policy.
- The service was operating a single pod system for both sessions held daily within the service.
- The inspector observed the cleaning procedures being carrying out by three staff members at the end of the morning session for example the cleaning of table tops, handles, toilets, sinks, floors, swap over of toys and activities for the afternoon session and cleaning records were then completed as per the service infection control policy.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- The inspector observed the cleaning records and through discussion with the registered provider that the cleaning procedures are completed at the end of the second session as per the service policy.
- The procedure for mouthed toys was explained to the inspector by staff during the inspection, and it was observed that a basin is used for gathering mouthed toys, which are then washed with warm water and soap and disinfected as per the service policy.
- The registered provider explained to the inspector that a deep clean of all toys activities and of the service is completed on a weekly basis in line with the cleaning policy of the service.
- The service was ventilated well with open windows and doors in the service.
- Hand hygiene was supported and evident during the inspection, the inspector observed children washing their hands at relevant times for example, after outdoor play, before lunch and after visiting the bathroom.
- Warm water, liquid soap, paper towels were available in the sanitary facilities with and lidded pedal bins present in both the sanitary facilities and in the classrooms.

Safe Sleep:

- There was a rest area available to the children if a child wished to take a break from activities. It consisted of 2 couches and a soft bench with age appropriate books available to read to enhance the development of the children.