

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 TE8X
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Brady
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/06/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Second Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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.
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Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This service is a privately operated service located in Castleknock, Dublin 15. A sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years for two sessions between 9.00am to 12.00pm and 12.30pm to 3.30pm each day. However, the service is currently operating one session from 9.00am to 12.00pm Monday to Friday. The premises is a purpose-built extension to the side of the registered providers house consisting of two care rooms – the front room and the back room. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and employs two staff members. On the day of inspection, the registered provider, the person in charge, one staff member and a student were present.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4).

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a).

Regulation 20 Facilities for Rest and Play

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

Regulation 28 Insurance

The scope of the inspection included both rooms – the Front room and the Back room.

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 registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(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

(2) The files of four adults were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had 2 written references and ensured that six written and validated references were available in relation to the three adults present.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as Police vetting was not required, as no adults had lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the three adults 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 and Youth Affairs.

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.*
- (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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection, there were four adults working with 14 children in the morning up to 12.00pm.*
- (3) Ratios were maintained in the service between the two rooms, the following was observed; four adults were caring for 14 children aged 3-5 years old.*

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

- (1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
 - (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered provider ensured there were adequate facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. The following was observed.

- The care rooms were observed to be well structured providing ample space for movement between activities.
- A range of equipment was provided in all areas accessible to the children which allowed for spontaneous play experiences, for example;

Home areas with play kitchens with supporting equipment and play food, cash register, doctors sets, hairdresser equipment, range of construction toys to include wooden puzzles, jigsaws, building blocks, plastic bricks, stickle bricks, waffles, cubes, connects, play work tools ; toys for transporting such as cars and trucks with garage, trains and train tracks; small world play toys of dolls house and supporting furniture, small people / characters, animals, insects and dinosaurs; table top activities pegs and peg boards, threading, and equipment to support the Montessori learning approach.

- A range of books which were maintained in good condition were readily available to the children in the back room supporting the development of pre-reading skills.
- An outdoor area was available to the children. The toys and equipment available supported a range of play experiences and skills. For example, two plastic climbing frames provided opportunities for gross motor activities with a tough tray available to provide opportunities for fine motor play activities.

(b) Rest areas were available to the children throughout the day, in the back room two couches were available for children to rest and take a break from activities if needed.

(2) (a) An outdoor play space was provided on the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 entrance to the service was secure with high locks out of children's reach. This reduced the risk of unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child. The outdoor area was fully enclosed and secure.
- The kitchen was not accessible to the preschool children during the service operating hours and emergency exits to the front and rear of the service were observed to be unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards preventing risks to the children.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 21.8°C at 11.00am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.
- The arrival and departure times were recorded accurately in attendance record for both staff and children

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, dispensed liquid soap, and paper towels and children's hands were observed to be washed frequently throughout the day, for example before mealtimes, before and after a baking activity and after toilet visits.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.
- Food which is brought from home for lunch time was observed to be refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the front room and in the event of an emergency was available to the children in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) While it is acknowledged that the registered provider was qualified in First Aid Responder training for children and evidence was available to demonstrate that two adults had valid in date training in Paediatric first aid. On the day of inspection, there was no person trained in First Aid Responder training available to the children until the registered provider arrived to the service at 10.30am. A sufficient number of adults must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of appointments, leave and breaks.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) None submitted

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) None submitted

Summary Comment

The registered provider informed the inspectorate that the service was not reopening in September 2024.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The last recorded fire drill that was carried out in the service was 20 May 2024.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of smoke alarms in the premises was available for review. The record showed that the smoke alarms were last serviced on 3 April 2024.
 - (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment in the premises was not available for review.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) None submitted

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) None submitted

Summary Comment

The registered provider informed the inspectorate that the service was not reopening in September 2024.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Non-Compliance Information

It is acknowledged that the registered provider submitted an email to demonstrate insurance of the service was in place but no Insurance certificate was available to demonstrate specific details of the insurance policy to include the start and expiry date of the insurance cover.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) None submitted

Supporting documentation submitted

(1) None submitted

Summary Comment

The registered provider informed the inspectorate that the service was not reopening in September 2024.