

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016LK002
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Name of Service:	Delta's Little Academy
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Address of Service:	Unit 1, Delta Retail Park, Ballysimon Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 PC86
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jeremiah O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	25/05/2023
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Date 2 of Inspection:	26 May 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	19
Day 2	AM	17	PM	13

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan, E Browne
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

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Conditions if applicable

Not application

Description of service

Delta's Little Academy is a privately owned pre-school service located in commercial unit in a retail park on the outskirts of Limerick city. A full day care service is offered from 8.15am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday for children aged 1 year to 6 years. A morning ECCE sessional programme is offered to pre-school children between the ages of 2 years and 8 months and 5 years of age. A service for school aged children is offered each afternoon.

On the ground floor there is one large ECCE playroom, a manager's office, a designated sleep room and sanitary accommodation for children and adults.

On the first floor there is a toddler room accommodating children over 1 years and a second ECCE room for a morning sessional group. This room is used for school aged children each evening. Nappy changing facilities and sanitary accommodation are also located on the first floor. A kitchen area and a staff room are also found on the first floor.

The service has a designated outdoor play area, accessible from the downstairs preschool room. A covered area is provided in the playground to provide shelter if required.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service. A designated manager is appointed to oversee the operations of the facility. There are 7 additional staff employed to work at the service. The manager and 6 staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 level 6 and Level 8.

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

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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/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) A designated person in charge was available on the day of the inspection.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the designated person in charge was rostered to work each day at the service.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for the manager and for 6 staff working at the service.

(b) References were from previous employers or from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the registered provider and each staff working at the service.

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- (d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had lived previously outside the Irish jurisdiction.
- (4) Proof of qualifications were available for the manager and 6 staff working at the facility.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was no named person to deputise if the person in charge was on leave.
- (b) The person to deputise for the manager had left the service a few months previously and a new deputy had not been appointed.
- (2)(a) There was no validated written references for 1 staff member who had taken up employment at the service a week prior to the inspection.
- (3) The recruitment policy specified that references must be submitted and validated prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to, or contact with a child attending the pre-school service. This procedure was not followed for 1 staff member who took up employment 1 week prior to the inspection.
- (4) Evidence of qualifications were not available for 1 staff member who had recently taken up employment at the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(a)(b) A deputy manager has been appointed to the service.
- (2)(a) All references have been validated and a record of each validation has been documented in writing.
- (3) New staff members will have to submit references and have them validated prior to taking up employment at the service.
- (4) The staff without proof of qualifications has had her certificate since forwarded to the QQI for validation.

Supporting documentation submitted

The name of the new deputy manager was submitted.

Copies of the documented validations were forwarded to the office of the Early years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

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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 Statement of purpose and function of the service was displayed in the front hallway. A detailed behaviour management policy was available. A complaints policy was documented.

Non-Compliance Information

All of the policies for the service were last revised on the 22nd of August 2018 and had not been reviewed since.

1. The policy on Administration of Medication did not address the procedure for the management of emergency medications.
2. The policy on Infection Control did not outline a procedure to protect pre-school children or persons working at the service from the transmissions of infections.
3. The policy on safe sleep did not clearly outline the procedures to follow around recording of room temperatures and sleep checks for children while sleeping. It did not give clear guidance on babies positioning when been put down to sleep.
4. The nappy changing policy did not outline the step-by-step procedures for handwashing of staff and children before and after each nappy change. The practice observed was inadequate as staff did not practice safe hygienic standards during nappy changing. No handwashing took place.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A revised policy for the Administration of Medication has been written. The policy outlines the procedures for the use of emergency medication at the service.
2. A revised policy on Infection Control has been written which includes all measures and procedures to protect staff and children from the transmission of infectious diseases.
3. The policy on safe sleep has been updated. Staff were informed of the revised policy and it is clearly displayed in the sleep room of the service.
4. The nappy changing policy had been updated and is displayed in the nappy changing areas of the service. All staff have been briefed on the detail of all procedures within the policy.

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Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of each of the revised policies were forwarded to the office of the early years inspectorate. The manager of the service stated that all policies will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted by the management of the service has been reviewed. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 10 has been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The adult/child ratio was correct on Day 1 and Day 2 of the inspection.

On day 1 there were 21 pre-school children present with 6 staff working with the children.

On Day 2 there were 17 pre-school children present with 5 staff working with the children.

Additional staff were available to cover staff taking meal breaks. The manager of the service was available to assist staff during busy periods.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 registration form for children attending the service were reviewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for these children.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service on 10 of the forms sampled.
- (c) provision to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service on 10 of the forms sampled.
- (d) The name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.
- (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) Details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- (h) Record of immunisations received by the child on 6 of the forms sampled.

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(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency on 10 of the forms sampled.

Non-Compliance Information

The following information was not available on a number of the registration forms which were sampled at the service.

(b) the date on which the child first attended the service on 2 of the forms sampled

(c) provision to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service on 2 of the forms sampled.

(h) Record of immunisations received by the child was not completed on 6 of the forms sampled.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency on 2 of the forms sampled.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

(b) The date on which the child first attended the service has been added to all registration forms.

(c) The date on which the child leaves the service has been added to all registration forms.

(h) Records of each child's immunisations will be completed and updated as required in all registration forms.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency will be sought for all children who register to attend the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Details of the information documented on each child's registration form were submitted to the Office of the Early years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions and the evidence submitted by the management of the service has been reviewed. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 15(1) has been adequately addressed.

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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

Basic Needs

A healthy eating policy was available at the service. Healthy snacks of fruit, yogurts, sandwiches and raisins were available and served for break times. Frozen dinners were purchased and reheated each day providing children with a hot dinner each day. On the day of the inspection children had mashed potatoes, gravy and meatballs for the main meal. Information on the food choices available were shared with all parents. Parents of the younger children supplies their own healthy snacks. Staff were observed sitting with children while eating, making mealtimes a social occasion. Children were reminded to take regular drinks during the day. Each child's drink was taken outside while children played for long periods in the outdoor play areas. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Sun hats were worn and sun creams applied to protect children while outdoors in the warm weather. A sheltered outside area was available and children were observed playing in the shaded space from the heat when outside.

Supporting Relationships around Children

Details of each child's day, how they slept, what they consumed at mealtimes and their play activities were shared with parents using a cloud-based app. Any information parents wished to share with the staff at the service was shared using the app.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs

1. There was no suitable adult seating available in the rooms to facilitate staff to sit with and hold the younger children. The one adult chair in the Toddler room was unsuitable, uncomfortable and the cushions were stained and required cleaning.

Supporting Relationships around Children

2. Childrens bags containing their personal belongings were stored in a disorganised manner on the floor of the service. Labelled spaces with children's name and/or picture displayed is required to promote childrens independence.

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3. Regular formal staff meetings did not take place at the service. A staff mentoring programme was not in place to ensure adequate staff supervision at the service.

Physical and Material Environment

4. Interest areas were poorly defined in the downstairs ECCE room. All equipment was located along the walls of the room. Storage units were over stocked and play materials were packed together making it difficult for children to make informed choices when choosing play equipment.

5. In the Toddler room items of interest to the children and children's artwork was stored too high on the walls for the children to view them. There was limited natural materials in the room. There was little sensory play materials visible to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

Basic Needs

1. New adult seating has been ordered for the service.

Supporting Relationships around Children

2. Childrens bags and personal belongings have been relocated to a more suitable location and are now stored in a more organised manner.

3. Regular staff meetings will be scheduled and a record of the meetings will be taken.

Physical and Material Environment

4. Interest areas in the ECCE room downstairs will be revised. All interest areas will be reviewed on a monthly basis.

5. Items of interest in the Toddler room will be placed at a level where children can engage with the material.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the changes in room layouts were forwarded to the Office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the management of the service address the non-compliances listed under the following points 2,3 and 5. The findings documented at points 4 and 1 remain non-compliant as the response did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance has been rectified.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1)(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.

(2) A registered provider-

(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or

(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016,

shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) A separate sleep room was available on the ground floor for children under 2 years who required to sleep in standard cots.

(2) Children had access to an outdoor space on the premises. A covered space was available outside to provide shelter in wet or in warm weather.

Non-Compliance Information

1. There were no sheets placed on the low-level beds that children over 2 years used in the downstairs preschool room at sleep time.

2. In the Toddler sleep room folded bed linen was piled high on a shelf next to a cot in the room. This store of linen was accessible to the children sleeping in the adjacent cot. An appropriate storage location for the bed linen was required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. No response received.

2. Childrens individual bed linen is now stored in labelled baskets and safely stored in the sleep room.

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Supporting documentation submitted

The response from the management of the service stated the new procedures in place for the storage of linen in the sleep room.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service addresses the non-compliance listed under point 2. The findings documented at point 1 remain non-compliant as the response did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance had been rectified.

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:

External doors and gates were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and preventing people gaining unauthorised access to the premises.

Administration of Medication:

Consent forms were available for parents and staff to sign if children at the service required the administration of prescribed medication.

Safe Sleep:

All children under 2 years who required a sleep had access to a separate sleep room in the service. Standard cots were available. Cellular blankets were used. Children were checked every 10 minutes and all sleep checks were documented.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The internal doors to the kitchen and the staff room upstairs remained open during the inspection thus allowing children possible access to these unsafe areas of the service. A washing machine and a dryer were stored in the staff room. Sharp implements were stored in the kitchen area. Accessibility to these areas of the services posed a risk to the safety of children at the service.

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2. A cable was hanging loosely from a window next to the stairs. This was accessible and posed a risk to children who used the stairs to access the first floor of the building.
3. A bottle of bleach was observed to be stored on a shelf in the Kitchen area, next to boxes of dry food. Appropriate storage of all hazardous materials was required.
4. Outdoors there were broken scooters, bikes and trikes. Many were missing at least 1 wheel. A set of wheel covers from a car were accessible to the children in the playground. These were not suitable to be used as play materials. They had sharp, exposed edges that could cause injury to a child.
5. A large climbing frame with an elevated fall height was located in the bigger playground. There was no impact absorbent material under this piece of equipment to minimise the risk of injury to a child if they fell from the frame.
6. The services refuse bins were located in the outdoor play area and were accessible to the children while playing in this area of the service. This posed a risk of injury to a child.
7. The protective cover on a drain located close to the entrance to the service was broken. This posed a risk of tripping for people as they approached the entrance to the building.
8. Evidence that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis was not available. This posed a risk to both children and staff in the event of a fire.

Infection Control:

9. Staff were observed not to wash hands before or after changing children's nappies. Children's hands were not washed after they were changed. The staff did not clean the mat before or between changes. The staff did not change their gloves after each change and wore the same gloves for a number of changes. The same gloves were worn as the staff checked if other children required their nappies changed. This posed a risk of cross infection to staff and children.
10. There was no foot pedal operated lidded bins in the sanitary accommodation or in any of the playrooms in the service. The swing open top lids on many of the bins were broken. This posed a risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Kitchen and staff room doors will be closed at all times
2. The hanging cable noted on the window by the stairs has been removed.

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3. Extra shelving has been added to the kitchen to ensure appropriate storage of all materials in this area of the service.
4. All broken toys from the outdoors have been removed.
5. The zip line has been removed from outside.
6. Refuse bins have been relocated and are no longer stored where children can access them in the playground.
7. The protective covers over all drains have been checked and replaced where needed.
8. Fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis.

Infection Control:

9. Staff have been given a copy of the revised nappy changing policy and the policy is clearly displayed in all nappy changing areas of the service.
10. Food pedal operated lidded bins have been added to all areas of the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

No evidence submitted for issues listed in point 1 to 9.

Infection Control:

10. Photographic evidence of the new bins in each room were submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the management of the service stated that all the non-compliances have been addressed. Supporting documentation has not been submitted therefore the response did not provide adequate assurances that the non-compliances have been rectified.

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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) There were 2 staff available at the service who had an up-to-date certificate in first aid.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the manager's office at the service and was easily accessible if required.

(b) The first aid box was always available to the children.

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

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the main hallway of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a) A record in writing of monthly fire drills was not maintained. The last documented fire drill took place on the 30th of October 2022. The manager of the service stated a drill took place in March 2023 but the details of which were not recorded.

(b) There was no maintenance record available to show that smoke alarms were checked in the building.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

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The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a) Fire drills will be carried out on a monthly basis and these will each be recorded.

(b) All smoke alarms will be checked on a monthly basis. An electrician has been booked to check the smoke alarm system but no date to complete this work has been agreed.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the management of the service state that the non-compliances outlined under section (1)(a) has been addressed. No evidence has been submitted to state that the non-compliance listed under section(1)(b) has been addressed. The response did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance had been rectified.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The current insurance certificate for the service was available. The service had insurance cover for 38 children to attend the full day care service. The commencement date of the policy was the 23rd of March 2023 and the expiry date of the policy was the 27th of March 2024.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure.
- (b) Access to the building was controlled by a buzzer system. All persons wishing to access the building had to be allowed access to the premises by the staff inside the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) The timber fence surrounding the larger outdoor play area was broken in many areas. Sharp edges were exposed along the surface of the fencing. These posed a risk of injury to the children when playing outside.
 - (c) There was inadequate ventilation in the service and room temperatures were not maintained at a maximum of 22 degrees Celsius as recommended.
 - The large ECCE room on the ground floor had a small openable window in the door. The room temperature in this room was recorded at 24 degrees Celsius.
 - The room temperature in the upstairs ECCE room was 24.5 degrees Celsius.
 - The room temperature in the Toddler room was 24.5 degrees Celsius.
 - There was no ventilation in the staff room neither mechanical nor natural.
 - There was no ventilation in the kitchen neither mechanical nor natural.
 - The mechanical vents in each of the sanitary accommodations were clogged with dust therefore reducing the efficiency of this type of ventilation system.
 - (d) No cleaning schedules were signed off on the week beginning May 22nd of 2023. Cleaning materials such as brushes and mops were stored in the playrooms and were accessible to the children. A deep clean of all areas was required as evidence of dust was visible in many areas of the building.
- A drinks holder used to carry 6 water bottles outside during outdoor play was dirty and the base covered in dust.

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The carpet on the stairs, the landing and the upstairs rooms was frayed and worn. Threads were hanging loose and the carpet was lifting at the joining posing a trip hazard.

On exiting the service, 5 refuse bags were piled high at the entrance gate. Staff from a building next door were observed smoking along the entrance path to the front door. Waste papers and cigarettes butts were observed along the entrance path. There was no person appointed responsibility to check and clean the entrance area where parents and children access the building.

(e) 7. The nappy changing facility downstairs was located in the staff sanitary accommodation. Separate staff facilities are required in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following information was forwarded by the manager of the service in reply to the above non-compliances.

Corrective and Preventive Action

(b) The area of fence that was broken has been replaced.

(c) Air conditioning units have been added to each room at the service.

(d) All cleaning schedules will be signed off when tasks are completed and these will be checked by the manager of the service.

The container for storing the drinking bottles will be cleaned on a regular basis.

New flooring has been purchased and will be in place within a week.

The communal space at the entrance to the building will be checked and maintained in a proper condition.

(e) The nappy changing area will be relocated from the adult toilet and be accommodated instead in a more appropriate location.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the repairs to the timber fence and of the air conditioning units were submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the management of the service address the non-compliances listed under Regulation 29(b). The findings documented at points c, d and e remain non-compliant as the response did not provide adequate assurance that the non-compliance had been rectified.