

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DR119

Name of Service: The Grove Pre-school

Address of Service: The Old Convent,
Our lady's Grove,
Goatstown Road,
Dublin.

Email Address: groveafterschool@eircom.net

Name of Registered Service Provider: Yvonne Tumelty

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care

Date of Inspection: 2 9 0 9 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 31 PM 7

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Tusla Child and Family Agency
Floor 2 Brunel building
Heuston South Quarter
Dublin 8

Inspection undertaken by: Ms S. Quigley
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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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Description of Service	<p>The Grove Pre-School is a privately owned service which was established in 2010. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care to children aged 2-6 years and operates an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme. The programme of care is facilitated through a blend of a play-based and Montessori teaching curriculum. The service also provides school aged care for children attending the local national school.</p>
Premises	<p>The Grove Pre-School is located in a residential area of Goatstown, South County Dublin. The service is provided across two classrooms in a purposely adapted premises on the grounds of a local national school. The service also has additional rooms for school aged care and a kitchen area where children eat their meals. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is located to the front of the premises with natural grass surfacing.</p>
Staffing	<p>The service currently employs six staff members including the registered provider who does not work directly with the children. On the 29th September 2021 six adults were present including the registered provider.</p>
Methodology	<p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>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.</p>

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.
- (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.
- (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:

- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of one staff member working in the service who was employed subsequent to the last date of inspection on the 18th September 2019. The following vetting documents and records which were furnished to the inspector in respect of the staff member met regulatory requirements:
- (a) (b) The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from two sources for the employee.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau for the staff member.
 - (d) Not applicable as the staff member had not lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (4) The staff member held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- (7)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that employees were provided with appropriate training and information on the following policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5; Infection Control and Risk Management Policy, as evidenced by the following:

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- Staff adequately detailed policies and procedures in place in the service during discussions with the inspector, including policies and practices which were revised to respond to Covid-19.
- A review of documentation evidenced that staff training was facilitated in the service for employees on amendments made to policies and practice within the service. Staff stated that amendments were discussed during onsite training and a copy was issued to employees. An online training course regarding best practice in infection control was also facilitated for employees by the registered providers.

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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty-one pre-school children attending the service being supervised by seven adults during the inspection.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

Basic Needs:

A healthy eating policy was in place in the service. Staff explained that a hot dinner, sourced from an external catering company, is provided daily to children who attend for full days. Morning snacks are provided daily by the parents of the children in attendance. On the day of inspection, beef stew with roast potatoes was served for dinner and children's snacks included fruits and yoghurts.

Children were encouraged and supported to be independent in cleaning up following mealtimes and play and washing hands at regular intervals. Children were observed to be content and engaged in their play and Montessori based activities throughout the inspection.

Supporting Relationships:

Adults were observed using respectful language during all interactions with the children. The adults created a language rich environment in the care rooms by asking open ended questions and using prompts to extend discussions amongst the children.

Staff working in the service stated that methods of communication with parents had been adjusted in light of Covid-19. Staff availed of opportunities to communicate with parents and guardians at brief intervals during drop off and collection times. Staff stated that one on one meetings were held individually with parents prior to their child starting in the service to discuss individual care needs and provide information about the service.

Physical and material environment:

The care rooms were well resourced with a variety of equipment and materials which were all arranged on low level shelving units, enabling the children to make choices in their play. Rest areas were available in each of the care rooms to enable the children to take time away from the group if required. Equipment and materials were arranged into different areas of interest in each room including drawing shelves, home corners, nature tables and construction areas. Children's artwork and photographs the children had taken in from home were displayed around the care rooms alongside picture timetables and children's jobs charts.

A large fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the front of the premises with natural grass surfacing. The area was well resourced with a variety of play materials and equipment including ride along toys, play kitchens, slides and football nets with balls.

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 door to the service was adequately secured with an access code and a buzz in system to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.

Cleaning products, hazardous materials and hand-sanitisers were stored safely out of reach of children. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order and no hazards were identified in the indoor or outdoor play environments.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials were regularly cleaned, including frequent cleaning of high contact surfaces. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including on arrival to the service, after using the toilet, following outdoor play and before meals. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing, and alcohol-based hand sanitiser was available and in use by staff members at regular intervals throughout the inspection. Adults working in the service stated that appropriate protocols and exclusion periods for adults and children presenting with symptoms of Covid-19 and other infectious illnesses were implemented in the service. This was evidenced by the updated infection control and risk management policies in place in the service. Measures to maintain distancing between staff members and groups of children had been implemented in the service. Staff described how children attending each play pod were met daily by a staff member at their designated entrance door to the service and taken to their care room where they remained with one group of children and staff members in a designated play pod.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures and appropriate documentation in place to safely administer medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required.

Non-Compliance Information:

General Safety:

1. There was no record available detailing the attendance of the children in the purple room when the inspector entered the room at approximately 9:45am. During discussions, staff stated they were unaware of the number of children present as they had not yet filled in the roll book. The absence of a record of

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<p>daily attendance may hinder the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.</p> <p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. There were no pedal operated bins in the children’s sanitary area to dispose of paper towels following hand-drying, one bin was unlidded and the others had a swing lid posing the potential risk of cross contamination.
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider:</p>	<p><u>Corrective Action</u></p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children will be marked into the attendance book immediately as they arrive to the service. <p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pedal operated bins are now in place. <p><u>Preventive Action</u></p> <p>General Safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The attendance book is not stored at the entrance to the service and children are marked in immediately as they enter. <p>Infection Control:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Existing bins have been removed and children have been shown how to use the pedal operated bins.
<p>Summary Comment:</p>	<p>Evidence was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.</p>

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)

A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 14th September 2021.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 10th March 2021 and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 17th May 2021.

(4)

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 31 - Notification of Incidents

A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:

(b) The diagnosis of a pre-school child attending the service, an employee, unpaid worker, contractor or other person working in the service as suffering from an infectious disease within the meaning of the Infectious Diseases Regulations 1981 (S.I. No. 390 of 1981)

Non-Compliance Information:	(d) The registered provider failed to notify the agency of the diagnosis of a person in the service as suffering from an infectious disease.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p>Corrective Action The service will notify the agency within three working days.</p> <p>Preventive Action The service provider will notify the agency within the required time frame.</p>
Summary Comment:	The regulatory requirement has been met.