

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015CC004

Name of Service: A Breath of Fresh Air Pre- School

Address of Service: Aghamarta
Carrigaline
Co. Cork

Email Address: info@aghamarta.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Ailish Thompson

Type of Service Registered:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Part-Time	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of Inspection:	0	1	0	6	2	0	2	2
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	53	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Administration Building
St Mary's Health Campus
Gurranabraher
Cork

Inspection undertaken by: V. McCarthy
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).

Conditions If Applicable Not Applicable

Description of Service	A Breath of Fresh Air Pre-School is a privately operated full day care service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service provides care for children aged between three and six years. The opening times are 8am to 6pm.
Premises	A Breath of Fresh Air Pre-School operates out of three care rooms that are positioned in a refurbished one storey stone barn building. There is a designated outdoor play area provided to the front of the building.
Staffing	There were six adults working directly with the children on the day of the inspection and each has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, or an equivalent qualification deemed by the Minister. One unpaid worker under supervision was also on the premises. The Registered Provider was not service based.
Methodology	<p>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.</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.</p> <p>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	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff 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.

Compliance Information:

- (1)
 - (a) The service had a named person in charge and named person that could deputise as required. The management structure was clearly displayed on the premises.
 - (b) The person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) There were seven new adults employed at the service since the previous inspection which was carried out on 13 February 2020. Therefore, on 01 June 2022 the inspector focused on the files in relation to these adults to assess vetting.
 - (a) There were 13 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the seven adults.
 - (b) There was one reference and validation on file from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the seven adults.
 - (d) Not applicable, as none of the adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.
- (4) Copies of childcare qualifications or equivalent qualifications deemed by the Minister were available on file in respect of these adults.

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
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information:

- (1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (2) On the day of the inspection there were six adults in attendance with 53 early years children.
- There were 18 children in the Yellow room of which 10 were attending sessional service with two adults in attendance.
 - There were 17 children in the Red room of which 12 were attending sessional service with two adults and one unpaid worker in attendance.
 - There were 18 children in the Blue room of which 14 were attending sessional service with two adults in attendance.
- (8)(a) There were always at least 2 adults on the premises during the hours of operation.

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:

- (1)(a)
- BASIC NEEDS:**
- The children's food for the breakfast meal and afternoon snack was provided to the children by the service. The food for the midmorning snack and dinner meal was provided to the children by their respective parents/guardians.
 - On the day of inspection, the pre-school children's breakfast consisted of a choice of breakfast cereals, milk and toast, the mid-morning snack consisted

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

of a variety of fruit, cheese or ham sandwiches, yogurts, and drinks of water. The dinner meals which had food from all shelves of the food pyramid were labelled individually, reheated in the services' kitchen, and served to the children in their respective care rooms at the dinner break. The children were provided with some fruit and yogurt by the service during the afternoon.

- All perishable food was stored in the services' fridges which were located in the kitchen and in the foyer between the Red and Blue rooms.
- A supply of crockery was available and provided to the children at snack and meal breaks.
- A water dispenser and a supply of cups was available on a low table in each of the three care rooms so that a child could pour a drink as he/she chose.
- The children had unrestricted access to the two toilets that were located adjacent to each of the three care rooms. The independent use of the toilet by the children was encouraged and was supervised by the adults as appropriate.
- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults who reminded the children to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and before eating their snacks and meals.
- The children were encouraged to move about their respective care room freely when they were indoors.
- The children in each room were provided with a designated period of time in the outdoor play area.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The Key person system was evident in the service which enabled children to form secure relationships with the adults caring for them.
- The adults were observed to be caring, kind and positive in their interactions with the children throughout the inspection.
- The person in charge furnished the staff with a monthly newsletter. Each care room carried out weekly meetings to plan the care and curriculum provided to the children.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and the person in charge informed the Inspector that she regularly forwarded parents and guardians relevant updated information via the electronic application used by the service. General information was displayed in the services' foyers for parents to read and the adults spoke with parents daily at drop off and collection times.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Each of the three care rooms was maintained in clean and good condition.
- The varied play materials were all stored on shelves positioned at child height that were easily accessible to the children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The child sized tables and chairs were maintained in good condition and were arranged by the adults to facilitate the children to sit together at their meal breaks and for circle time activities.
- A variety of the children’s art and craft work, such as birds in nests, seasonal trees, continents, hedgehogs and other animals were clearly displayed on the walls of each room.
- There was a developed rest area consisting of soft padded mats and cushions provided in each care room so that a child could have a rest or opt out of an activity as he/she chose.
- There were two sleep mats and a supply of clean linen available for any child that required a sleep.
- There was a secured outdoor play area positioned to the front of the premises. The outdoor play area was surrounded by buildings on three sides and by a high fence and secured gate on the fourth side. The ground surface was provided with a shock absorbing surface. Since the previous inspection, the outdoor area was provided with an awning and an anchored platform with attached low slide had been newly installed. There was a water table, a sand container, seven blackboards, a large messy play kitchen area, a see saw, a second low slide and a selection of ride on play equipment. The area had several child sized chairs so children could sit as they chose. A water dispenser and supply of cups were available in the outdoor area when it was in use.

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 main entrance door leading into the Yellow room was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by buildings, fencing and a secured gate.
- The doors leading into the kitchen and storeroom were kept secured and were not accessible to the children.
- The cleaning agents in each care room were stored on high shelves out of children’s reach.
- All leads and flexes attached to stereos were kept out of children’s reach.
- The light bulbs in each of the three care rooms were provided with protective covers
- The high shelving units positioned in the Red room, Blue room and main foyer were fully anchored.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Each care room was fitted with windows that could be easily opened to facilitate ventilation and it was noted during the inspection that these windows remained slightly open.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises.
- Hand washing by the children was carried out after using the toilet and outdoor play and before eating their snacks or meals. The children were supervised by the adults as appropriate with handwashing.
- Adults were aware of the correct measures for coughing and sneezing and therefore could help children follow this process if required. A supply of disposable tissues was available in each care room.
- Hand sanitiser containers were wall mounted throughout the premises.
- All toys and play equipment in the playrooms were observed to be clean.
- The children's perishable food provided by parents or guardians for the children's dinner meals was stored in the services' fridges.
- The children's coats and personal belongings were stored off the floor on wall hooks or on shelving units.

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) There were two fully equipped first aid boxes available on the premises that were stored out of children's reach.

(b) The first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information:

(1) No adult attached to this service had up to date training in First Aid Response (FAR). It was acknowledged that two adults were booked in to attend FAR training in July 2022. It was also acknowledged that the service provided evidence to the inspector that two adults had up to date paediatric first aid and that one of these adults was always on the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION

(1) The manager has stated in her written response to the inspectorate dated 21 June 2022 that FAR training has been booked for staff on 14th and 15th of July 2022.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

	<p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>(1) The manager has stated in her written response to the inspectorate dated 21 June 2022 that in future FAR training for the services' staff will be booked in advance so that an adult with up-to-date training will always be available on the premises.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u></p> <p>(1) Photocopies of records to demonstrate that an adult carried out up to date First Aid Response (FAR) on 14th and 15th July 2022 were furnished to the inspectorate on 22 July 2022 for review.</p>
Summary Comment:	The documentation submitted by the manager relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p>(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p>(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises</p>	
Compliance Information:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) Records of fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. A fire drill was last undertaken at the premises on 23 May 2022.</p> <p>(b) The records regarding the number, type, and servicing of firefighting equipment were maintained on file. The firefighting equipment was last serviced on 02 December 2021.</p> <p>(4) The fire evacuation procedure for the service, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire, was displayed on the premises.</p>
Non-Compliance Information:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(b) A record regarding an up-to-date service of the wired smoke alarm was not available for review. The records demonstrated that the wired smoke alarm was last serviced on 25 June 2020.</p>
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(b) The manager has stated in her written response to the inspectorate dated 21 June 2022 that she has been in contact with a reputable company and that the</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

wired smoke alarm will be serviced during the week commencing 27 June 2022. The manager submitted a response dated 04 July 2022 stating that the fire alarm system was serviced.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

(1)

(b) The manager has stated in her written response to the inspectorate dated 21 June 2022 that in future she will have it organised so that a reputable company service the wired smoke alarm annually.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

(1)

(b) Photocopies of the wired smoke alarm service were furnished to the inspectorate on 04 July 2022.

Summary Comment:

The documentation submitted by the manager relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.