

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC027			
Name of Service:	Ardmore Community Pre-School			
Address of Service:	Ardmore Estate, Passage West, Cork, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	T12 YY66			
Name of Registered Provider:	Judy Hartnett Mccarthy			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	17/01/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440			
Inspection undertaken by:	V. McCarthy			
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

N/A

Description of service

Ardmore Community Pre-School is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. The service operates out of a 1 storey detached building, located in a residential area on the outskirts of Passage West village, that was specifically adapted as a childcare facility. There is an outdoor play area provided to the side and rear of the premises. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. Opening hours are 09.00 to 12.00 hours and 12.30 to 15.30 hours daily.

Staffing

The service is carried out by the person in charge and 4 other adults. The registered provider is not service based. Each of the 5 adults working directly with the children in the service has completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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

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

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 a deputy that could deputise as required.
 - (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)
- (a) There were 8 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 6 adults attached to the service
 - (b) There were 4 reference and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the 6 adults.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 6 adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the adults.

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 following policies were assessed and were found to have met the requirements:

- Policy on Administration of Medication
- Policy on Infection Control

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) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(3) On the morning of the inspection there were 3 adults working directly with 14 children. The ratio of staff to children exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

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

(1)(a) Basic Needs:

- Hand hygiene by the children was supported and encouraged by the adults and it was noted that the children washed their hands on arrival to the premises, before eating and after messy play and using the toilet.
- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as a quiet area off the care room was provided with a rest area consisting of child sized soft couches. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play, quiet time or to read a book.
- The children's need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to. The independent use of the toilet by the children was encouraged and supported as appropriate by the adults. The children that wore pull ups were provided with individual assistance by the adults.
- A plate of sliced fresh fruit and a water fountain with a supply of cups were always available on a low table in the care room to facilitate any child that may be hungry or thirsty throughout the session. He/she could self-serve themselves and it was observed that any child that used this facility did so independently.
- The children sat together at low tables to eat their mid-morning snack food which was provided by their respective parents/guardians. This was a happy and social time where the children sat, ate, chatted, and laughed together.

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

Infection Control:

- The adults maintained both digital and written cleaning records to demonstrate that the care room and premises was cleaned daily and deep cleaned weekly.
- A supply of crockery was available to the children during their mid-morning snack break.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment in good condition were available at the premises.
- The wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 29.9°C during the inspection.
- Children's belongings were stored on individually picture labelled wall hooks positioned in the lobby area.
- A box of paper tissues was available for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- Two fridges were available in the kitchen for the storage of the children's perishable food.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1)
Records were available both digitally and by a hard copy roll book to demonstrate that each child was checked in and out daily at the service by the adults. The inspector assessed a sample of records covering a period of 7 days and the records were maintained complete each day in respect of all the children. On the day of inspection there were 14 early years children on the premises and each child had been checked in on his/her arrival by the adults and was again checked out at home time.

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)
The service provided evidence that 5 adults had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that 1 of these adults was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available at the premises and it was stored on a high shelf in the secured kitchen out of children's reach.

(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

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 firefighting 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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drills carried out for the morning and afternoon sessions were on 16 January 2024.
 - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment had a maintenance service on 21 September 2023 and the wired smoke alarm was serviced on 14 November 2023.
- (4)
- Copies of the fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at the front and back doors of the premises.