

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC039		
Name of Service:	Ballygarvan Tiny Tots Community Playschool CLG		
Address of Service:	Ballygarvan G.A.A. Hall, Ballygarvan, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 WC8V		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ellis O' Keeffe		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	04/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	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	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Ballygarvan Tiny Tots Community Playschool CLG is situated on the grounds of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in a rural setting at Ballygarvan, Co Cork. The service is open from Monday to Friday and provides morning and afternoon sessions. It caters for children aged between two and six years. The service operates from a single storey prefabricated unit which has one care room that was specifically adapted as a childcare service. There is a designated outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were three adults working directly with the children during the inspection. A fourth adult arrived on to the premises at 12 mid-day to care for the children attending the afternoon session. The registered provider was not service based.

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 inspections 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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)
- The person in charge confirmed that each of the five adults attached to the service had begun working at the service prior to the previous inspection undertaken on 31 May 2021, therefore the recruitment records in relation to these adults were not reviewed during this inspection.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the five 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.

(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 three adults working with 19 early years children. A fourth adult arrived in the premises at 12 noon to assist with afternoon session. The ratio of adults to children exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(k) There was a designated folder with forms for the recording of any accidents, injuries, and incidents available in the office for review. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were four records regarding incidents and injuries available on file since September 2022. The records were complete and detailed the dates when the recorded incidents occurred and were dated when the adults maintained the records. The records showed an account of the events, the management of the incidents/injuries, were signed by the adult maintaining the record and each of the records was co-signed by the respective child's parent/guardian.

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)

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The care room appeared to be welcoming, bright and comfortable. It was furnished with child sized tables, and chairs, low shelving and a variety of play equipment that met the needs of the children. There was also a comfortable adult chair so that children could be cuddled or comforted by an adult as required.
- All play materials, play equipment and arts and crafts materials were clearly laid out on low shelving or in containers so that they were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- Varied interest areas were set up in the care room such as a sensory area, a cosy well developed rest area, a tent area, home areas, library, play shop, construction play area, blackboards, tabletop activities and a variety of arts and crafts. The children had choice and could visit the areas that were of interest to them.

- The walls of the care room were decorated with a wide selection of the children’s art and craft works. There were clouds, rainbows, summer flowers scenes, trees, planets and fish arts and craft work displayed all about the care room. The inspector was informed that the adults supported the children to participate in the activities that they the children were interested in.
- There were well developed rest areas consisting of soft cushioned seating, a tent area and an area with sensory equipment. These areas were noted to be calm and restful and were used by children when they wanted relaxation or some quiet time.
- The designated outdoor play area was accessible to the children directly off the care room. This area had shock absorbing ground surface and roof cover installed since the previous inspection. There were areas of interest available to the children such as planting boxes, balancing blocks, outdoor play kitchen, bumble bee pictures, hanging blackboards and a bench to sit on.

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:

- A detailed cleaning programme was in place and daily and weekly records were available for review. The inspector was informed that the adults practiced a clean as you go policy and carried out a deep clean at the end of each day. It was noted during the inspection that the premises, equipment and play materials were kept in very clean condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out at the premises, before eating, after toileting, messy play and after outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels that were stored in wall mounted dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 33.9°C during the inspection.
- A fridge was available on the premises for the storage and safe management of the children’s perishable food.
- The children’s bags, coats and personal belongings were all stored on labelled wall hooks in the main foyer.

- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.

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)
It was acknowledged that the service provided evidence that each of the five adults had recently completed training in paediatric first aid.
- (2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available on the premises that was wall mounted high out of children's reach.
(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
There was no First Aid Response (FAR) certificate available on file to demonstrate that any of the adults had carried out training in FAR. Whilst it was acknowledged that all adults had paediatric first aid, an adult with FAR training must be available to the children at all times.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
The registered provider stated in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action (CAPA) form dated 24 May 2023 that three members of staff have been enrolled in a college to attend First Aid Response (FAR) training which will be carried out over the summer months. Any courses that staff attend in future, the registered provider will ensure that she obtains the complete certification regarding the training.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) The registered provider forwarded on correspondence to the inspector that she received from the training college on 12 May 2023 regarding the booking of places for FAR training.

Summary Comment

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 22 per session, the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024, the category of service covered which was sessional service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.