

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC205			
Name of Service:	Kinsale Community Playschool			
Address of Service:	Sáile, Cappagh, Kinsale, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	P17 WD66			
Name of Registered Provider:	Danielle Canniffe			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	06/11/2023			
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

N/A

Description of service

Kinsale Community Playschool is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). It operates from a prefabricated structure that is located on the outskirts of Kinsale town. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age and carries out a morning and an afternoon session daily.

Staffing

There are 5 adults attached to the service, including the registered provider, that all work directly with the early years children. There was also an adult on community employment (C.E) at the premises on the day of the inspection.

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 deputy, 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 named deputy was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 7 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 6 adults attached to the service.
- (b) There were 4 references and required validations on file from sources other than past employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 6 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 3 of the 4 adults that 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 or letter of eligibility from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) was available on file in respect of 5 of the 6 adults. The sixth adult was an adult on Community Employment (C.E).

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) A second reference and required reference validation were not available for review in respect of 1 of the 6 adults.
- (d) Police vetting was not available on file in respect of 1 of the 6 adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a)(b) A second reference and required reference validation have been obtained in respect of the adult and is now available on file. The registered provider will ensure all vetting is carried fully in future.

(d) Police vetting in respect of 1 of the 6 adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more has been applied for and is awaited.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)
- (a)(b) A photograph of the of the obtained reference and required reference validation were submitted to the inspectorate on 30 November 2023.
- (d)The registered provider submitted a copy of the receipt on 11 November 2023 to demonstrate that the police vetting in respect of the adult had been applied for.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photograph submitted relating to the non-compliances were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 deputy ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of the inspection there were 5 adults working directly with 19 children present. There was also an adult on Community Employment (C.E) who was always supervised when with the 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) Physical and Material Environment

- The care room was warm, comfortable and furnished with child sized tables, chairs, low shelving and a variety of wooden play materials and play equipment that met the needs of the children.
- All play materials and play equipment such as the wall hung sensory boards were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- Varied interest areas were set up in the care room such as nature tables, sensory areas, rest areas, home areas, arts and crafts areas, tabletop activities and dress up clothes. The adults supported the children to participate in the activities that they the children were interested in and provided them with opportunities to participate in imaginative play.
- The walls of the care room were decorated with branches, flags and craftwork of Halloween monsters that had been created by the children.
- There was a soft matted rest area provided in a quiet corner of the care room. This area was kept calm and restful so that children could have quiet time, or a little rest as required.
- The secured outdoor play environment that surrounded the Prefabricated building was provided with play equipment that supported the children's free play, imagination, individual and large group activities.

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 premises 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 high fencing and a secured gate to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The doors leading into the staff toilet and storeroom were kept secured and were not accessible to the children.
- All keys were hung on high hooks beside secured doors out of children's reach.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- The cords attached to window blinds were safely secured high out of children's reach.
- The 2 high units in the care room were anchored securely.
- The fire door to the rear of the care room was maintained unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with liquid soap and paper towels for hygienic hand washing and hand drying.
- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were available for review, and it was noted that the premises, equipment and play materials were all kept in clean and good condition.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored on individually labelled hooks positioned in the main foyer.
- Disposable paper tissues were available on a low shelf in the care room 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.

- The children's perishable food was stored in a fridge positioned in the services' kitchen.
- Cups and plates were provided to the children as they sat at their respective table for their mid-morning snack break.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The 4 wash hand basins used by the children and the 1 wash hand basin used by the adults for hygienic hand washing were not provided with thermostatically controlled warm water. The water temperature was recorded at 11.6°C at 10.10am and again at 11.30am which was the same temperature as the water from the cold taps. This posed as a potential risk of cross infection due to inadequate hygienic handwashing.
2. The adult toilet area was used as a storeroom for supplies of boxes of tissues, cleaning agents and packages of toilet paper which posed as potential cross infection hazards.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider has informed the inspector via the CAPA form dated 22 November 2023 that the water heater has been repaired and that the water temperature is now 38°C.
2. The registered provider has purchased a storage unit with doors to store supplies safely.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. A photograph of the water temperature recorded at 38°C on a thermometer was submitted for review.
2. A photograph of the storage unit was submitted.

Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted relating to the non-compliances were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

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 training in first aid response (FAR) and that one of these adults was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available the premises and it was stored on a high wall hook in the main foyer 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)
(b) Records regarding the number, and type of fire equipment were maintained on file.

(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 maintained on file and displayed at the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) Records of up-to-date monthly fire drills carried out at the service were not available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on 03 March 2023.
- (b) Records regarding up-to-date maintenance services for the fire equipment and the wired smoke alarm were not available on file. The fire equipment was last serviced on 07 January 2020 and the wired smoke alarm last had a maintenance service on 23 January 2019.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (a) A fire drill was carried out at the service during the morning and afternoon of 10 November 2023 and in future will be carried out monthly.
- (b)
- The fire equipment was serviced on 10 November 2023 and in future will be serviced annually.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)
- (a) A photograph of the fire drill records was submitted on 30 November 2023.
- (b) A fire certificate detailing that the fire equipment was serviced on 10 November 2023 was submitted to the inspectorate on the 10 November 2023.

Summary Comment

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

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(e) There were 2 toilet cubicles and 4 wash hand basins available directly off the care room for children's use. There was 1 toilet and wash hand basin available off the main foyer for adult's use. There was a supply of liquid soap and dispensers with disposable paper towels provided for hygienic handwashing and hand drying in all toilet areas. The children's toilet cubicles were provided with a high opening window that could be opened as required to ventilate the space.