

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC277		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Muintir Bhaire Community Pre-school		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Pavilion, Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork		
<b>Eircode:</b>	P75 VY84		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Susan O'Donovan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/06/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Child & Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork, P81 PD78		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Carney		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable		

### Description of service

Muintir Bhaire Community Pre-school provides an early years care and education for children aged 2 to 6 years. It operates from 09:30am to 12:30pm daily.

The service is situated within a purpose built, single storey, modern building based within the GAA campus in the rural village of Durrus in west Cork. The site also accommodates a community swing park with zip wire, mature trees and shrubs and laid to law gardens. There is also a waste disposal facility.

The service offers a large playroom, kitchen and staff facilities, storage spaces, toilet accommodation and a welcoming lobby.

There is generous car parking in the grounds to allow the children to arrive and depart safely from the session with their families.

### Staffing

The registered provider has employed 2 adults to work directly with the children. An additional adult has been employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM)

Each adult has completed Quality Qualification's Ireland (QQI) in childcare training ranging from Level 5 to Level 6.

### 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*

*(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 registered provider did not work within the service; however, an adult had been appointed as the person in charge and an additional adult was designated as deputise as required.

(b)

On inspection of staff rosters it was evidenced that the person in charge and the deputy were on the premises for the duration of service operation.

(2)(a) & (b)

There were 3 adults employed in the service in total. Each of their personal files were reviewed and the following information was found –

There were 3 written past employers references on file with records of verification attached.

There were 3 written references from a source that the registered provider considered to be reputable, with records of validation attached.

(c)

There were 3 up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file, dated October 2022.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the employees had not lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training were on file for each staff members at level 5 & Level 6.

### 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)  
On the day of the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3)  
There were 19 children attending the service on a sessional basis aged 3 to 5 years. There were 3 adults present. The adult child ratio was correct.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*

- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

The service completed registration forms that had been complied by a childcare agency. They included all the relevant information listed above. Each child's form was reviewed, and it was found that they were suitably completed and compliant in respect of Regulation 16 (a) to (i).

### 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:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)  
The registered provider had ensured that the above information (a) to (i) was maintained in hard copy.
- (j) The person in charge made available an administration of medication recording book to detail any medications that may be required to a pre-school child attending the service. There were no entries.
- (k) The service had a record book to detail any accidents or incidents that had occurred in the service. The logbook was closely examined, the last entry was dated May 2023. This involved a minor accident which had been dealt with in accordance with the service policy, as evidenced by the parental signature.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

### Compliance Information

Information incorporating the subsections of Regulation 16 (1)a) to (g) for parents, guardians or prospective parents was displayed in the lobby. It was also available in hard copy.

### 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

- Parents and guardians supplied their children with all their food and drink provisions.
- The lunch meal was timetabled mid-morning, prior to outdoor play.
- Lunch time was a sociable event with staff members sitting with the children and assisting with opening of lunch boxes, cutting fruits and opening cartons.

- Children were observed eating lunches at their own pace.
- Staff members supervised toilet visits and gently prompted handwashing and disposing of paper towels.
- Additional hand washing was observed after tidy up time and prior to lunch.
- Aprons were stored for use to protect the children’s clothes during art and messy play activities.
- Each child had their own coat hook and bench space for personal belongings in the lobby.
- The children had access to rest den which was situated between activities but suitably developed to allow the privacy, rest and relaxation. It was furnished with 2 bean couches and co-ordinated cushions for the children’s comfort. An adjacent book unit displayed age-appropriate books in an enticing manner to encourage quiet reading time.
- There was sufficient clear floor space in the playroom for the children to enjoy free play, socialisation and encourage investigation of their environment in a supervised manner.
- The children had access to a secured garden to the rear of the premises.
- At all times during the inspection the adults constant and caring supervision of the children so that any sensitive behaviours were immediately counteracted.

### Physical and Material Environment –

- Muintir Bhaire was situated in a purpose-built single storey building, which provided a large playroom, kitchen, storage rooms and toilet facilities.
- A spacious lobby allowed for the safe and supervised arrival and departure of the children.
- The premises was clean, bright and well maintained. There were many openable windows to allow for natural light and ventilation.
- The playroom was furnished with a child sized tables and chairs that were clean and well maintained. In addition, there were many low display units which permitted the children to access resources and play materials independently.
- The room was laid out in a manner to encourage thematic play and provided diverse opportunities for enriching play experiences. There was a well-equipped home corner which invited imaginative play.
- There was large and small construction, cars, trucks and work benches with miniature utensils for the children’s enjoyment of dramatic play.
- An area of the room was devoted to tabletop activities so that fine motor skill play could be practised. Children were observed playing with playdough, colouring, collage activities and gluing and sticking.
- A nature table was pleasingly adorned with items such as leaves, cones, shells and feathers.

- The service provided a wide range of art and crafts that offered a variety of colours, texture and shapes readily accessible for the children’s investigation.
- Circle time space was generous and faced the newly installed large white board which was used for supervised songs and interactive digital activities.
- The children had access to their own secured garden which was laid with artificial grass.
- The garden was designed in manner that allowed for gross motor skill activity, socialisation and investigation.
- A constructed road with wall mounted petrol pump allowed for ride on toys such as cars, trucks and bikes.
- A canopied area was equipped as an outdoor playroom with many tabletop and imaginative activities.
- There was a bespoke sand table with cover and associated utensils such as buckets and spades.
- Fenced mounted activities include gutters for water play and chalk boards.
- An ornamental tree with hanging chimes and encircled bench provided a rest area for the children to sit and take in views of the adjacent river listen to birdsong and admire wildlife.
- It was reported that in fine weather the children ate their lunches at the picnic benches with a cantilever parasol to provide shade.

### Supporting Relations around the Children

- The staff members were observed to be kind, patient and caring to each child, for example during one-to-one tabletop activities and small group engagement.
- Only low tones were used during communication with the children.
- Children’s cues were readily addressed for example, toileting and support with assisting mastery of arts and crafts.
- Staff members had recently completed associated childcare training to enhance and improve their professional skills, for example, play therapy, data protection and supporting a neurodiverse child in your setting.
- The service was closely integrated with the local community; it was reported that trips to the local library with parents had been conducted.
- The service had participated in the inclusion to art exhibition and engaged with Cruinnie na Og
- It was reported that a sports day had taken place and was enjoyed by both the community and families.
- The service operated a digital group application for parents to receive notices regarding the service.
- Open days were arranged for prospective parents.

## Implementation of Programme of Care

- The service followed a high scope philosophy and this was evident in the management and flow of activities that were observed on the inspection day.
- A daily timetable was displayed to evidence that a wide range of activities were offered to the children, there was ample time allotted for free play, outdoor play, circle time socialisation and meals.
- Records were made available to evidence short term and long-term planning of the curriculum.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

- The parents and guardians supplied their children with all food and drink provisions.
- Lunches were stored in the service fridge.
- The children ha access to their own water bottles to counter thirst as required.
- Additional water bottles were stored in the fridge for both staff and children. along with the children’s bottles of water.
- A system was in place whereby the children independently retrieved their own lunch boxes from the fridge.
- A healthy eating policy was in place which was adhered to as observed from lunches eaten.
- Children were seen eating healthy and nutritious lunches such as sandwiches, cold meats and cheeses, rolls, savoury wraps, seasonal fruits such as strawberries, yogurts, rice cakes and chopped vegetables.

## 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:

- Muintir Bhaire was suitably secured so that a child could not leave the premises unsupervised.
- Unauthorised was restricted.
- Play materials were found to be in a good state of repair with no pinch points or sharp edges.
- Cables and flexes were not accessible to the children.
- Openable windows were not accessible to the children and there were no blind cords.
- There were no low glazed units.
- The emergency exit door was unobstructed.
- Cleaning products were stored on high shelving out of reach of the children.
- The children did not have access to the kitchen, adult toilet or staff members bags and personal belongings.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained. It was reported that the staff members operated a clean as you go policy with a deep clean at the end of the week.
- Sanitising units were placed out of reach of the children for adult use.
- Good hand washing practise were observed with children washing hands after using the toilets, after messy play and prior to lunch.
- The children had access to 2 toilets and 2 inset wash hand basins within a vanity unity that was installed at child height.
- In addition, a wash hand basin was situated within a nook in the playroom for clean up after arts and craft.
- Liquid soap, and paper towels were available for hand washing purposes and strategically places hand washing posters were visible to the children to prompt the correct hand washing technique.
- Training pots were available as required.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water registered at 34 degrees Celsius.

- Adults had a designated toilet which also provided a nappy changing facility if required. It was clean and well maintained.
- Protective gloves were available to the staff members.
- Non-contact pedal bins were situated throughout the service.
- Tissues were available to the children for nasal hygiene.

### Administration of Medication:

- It was reported that there were no children attending the service that required either prescribed or emergency medications.
- In conversation with the person in charge it was established that adults were familiar with the procedures that are to be followed in the event of a child requiring either emergency or prescribed medications.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire door was unobstructed.
- Fire cylinders were tethered to the walls.
- In conversation with the person in charge it was reported that staff were familiar with the procedures that are required to be followed in the event of a fire

## 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)

Certification displayed in the lobby indicated that 2 staff members had completed first aid responder training (FAR) with an expiry date of September 2024.

(2)

The service had a well-equipped first aid bag which was stored in the playroom on a high shelf out of reach of the children but easily accessible to the staff members. It was observed that when the children were taken to the garden the first aid bag was diligently taken also in the event of an emergency.

### 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)

The service maintained a fire safety recording book. This was closely reviewed; the following information was found-

A record of monthly fire drills with the most recent fire drill having taken place on the 31 May 2023. There were 19 children present, 3 adults and the event had taken 3 minutes to complete.

(b)

The service maintained a written record of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the setting. The most recent service had taken place in September 2022.

(4)

A fire evacuation plan was conspicuously displayed to detail the procedures that are to be followed to leave the building in the event of a fire.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An up-to-date insurance certificate was displayed in the lobby which indicated that the service was suitably insured to cater for up to 22 children on a sessional basis.

The expiry date was the 27 March 2024.