

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

1TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC321
---------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Páistí Preschool
-------------------------	------------------

Address of Service:	Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre, Kinsale Road, Cork, Co. Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	T12 T927
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Jo Kelley
-------------------------------------	-----------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	12/05/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	--

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Páistí Preschool is a nonprofit community service which provides sessional care service to children aged between 18 months and 6 years of age. Páistí Preschool operates from a room based in the Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre that is located on the suburbs of Cork city. The care room was specifically adapted as a childcare setting. There are toilet/nappy changing facilities for the children's use and a secured storeroom situated beside the care room. There is an enclosed area on the grounds of the premises that is used by the sessional service for outdoor play activities. The service is registered to operate both a morning and afternoon session daily.

Staffing

There are three staff attached to this service including the registered provider who is 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 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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge as well as the deputy person in charge were on the premises for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.

(2)

There were three staff attached to the service and three staff files were assessed.

(a) Four of the six required references were available from a past employer and had been validated.

(b) Two of the six required references were available and validated from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all for staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for two members of staff as they had resided outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

(3)

Staff records in relation to the three staff members showed that the above procedures had been carried out before staff had access to children.

(4)

Two of the staff members held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The registered provider was not service based and did not need to hold a qualification.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 staff working directly with the children.

(3) On the morning of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations. There were two adults available in the care room to work directly with the 7 children in attendance aged between 1.5 and 3 years.

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) The person in charge advised that a total of seven children were enrolled at the service. All seven child record forms were assessed. Each form included all of the information, as listed from (a) to (i), which met the requirement.
- (3) (c) All seven records were available for inspection by an authorised person on the day of inspection.

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:

- Staff responded to children in low tones and communicated with them respectfully throughout the inspection.
- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food during the mid-morning snack. Examples of these snacks included: cheese, fruits, yogurts and rice cakes.
- Children were offered their snack but were free to choose another activity to engage in if they were not hungry. Staff reported that children were free to take their lunch from the refrigerator at any time.
- Staff reported that if extra portions were needed, there was a supply of food available in the centre kitchen at time.
- Children had access to their water bottles throughout the day. Water bottles were stored at child height in the care room. There was also a supply of cups, and a jug of water should it be needed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- A rest area was provided in a quiet part of the care room should any child need to rest. This area was observed to have a cot, soft padded matting on the floor, a child sized couch and a supply of linens.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly by staff.
- The room was well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- The staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment.
- Children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection.
- Freedom of choice was actively encouraged. For example, one staff member remained indoors, and another remained outdoors so the children were free to choose their own environment to play in.

Supporting relationships:

- During the mid-morning snack, staff were observed to sit with children. During this time there was a relaxed atmosphere.
- The staff members demonstrated respect for children. For example, staff members were observed to redirect behaviour using soft and gentle tones.
- Staff were observed to use nappy changing time as an opportunity to communicate and support children to feel secure in their environment. For example, staff were observed to chat and sing with children during this time.
- Staff reported having daily communication with parents at drop off and collection time.
- The service uses a group messaging service to communicate and share information directly with parents.
- Staff reported operating in partnership with the community and have forged strong links with the supports available to them. For example, the service engages with Happy Talk; and the Public Health Nurse.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults. As many of the children were quite young, communication was primarily through nonverbal cues. Staff were observant in the care of the young children and were quick to respond for cues such as hunger, tiredness and toileting needs.
- The two staff appeared to work well together and reported to the inspector that they meet frequently to discuss the needs of the service and also meet with an external supervisor from a sister service once a week for staff support and supervision.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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:

- Low level doors were fitted with visibility strips.
- Blind cords were secured on all windows.
- Flexes and cables were observed to be out of reach of children.
- Cleaning agents were inaccessible to children.
- The outdoor area was securely fenced to prevent unauthorised access or exit.
- Heavy equipment and furniture had been anchored to prevent them falling onto a child.
- Children's play equipment, and furniture, were observed to be in a clean state and of good repair.
- The children's bags and coats were stored safely off the floor level to prevent trips.
- Entry to the service was restricted to prevent the unauthorised entry to the premises or the unsupervised exit of a child from the premises.
- Access to storage cupboards was restricted.

Infection Control:

- A detailed cleaning schedule was available in the care room and sanitary accommodations.
- Each sanitary area was fitted with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Perishable food was safely refrigerated.
- Windows were open in the care room to aid natural ventilation.
- It was noted that children washed their hands when returning from outdoor play and from the bathrooms.
- Children's nappies, wipes and barrier creams were individually labelled and stored to prevent cross infection.
- Windows in the sanitary accommodations had been opened to aid natural ventilation.
- Staff wore disposable aprons and gloves while changing children's nappies.
- Pedal operated bins were in use throughout the service.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were found to be free from obstruction.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Wall tethered firefighting equipment was readily available

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 registered provider has ensured that there was an adult trained in first aid response (FAR) and that this staff member was always accessible to the children.

(2)(a) (b) The registered provider has ensured that the care room was equipped with a suitably stocked first aid box which was easily accessible to staff should it be needed by the children at all times.