

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC321
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Name of Service:	Páistí Preschool
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Address of Service:	Kinsale Road Accommodation Centre, Kinsale Road, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T12 T927
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Name of Registered Provider:	Karolina Wieczorek
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	n/a
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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
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Description of service

Páistí Preschool is a nonprofit community service which provides sessional care service to children currently aged between 18 months and 5 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 2 adults attached to the service that work directly with the children. The registered person in charge is available as required and works between this service and a sister service also based in Cork. The registered provider 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 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 manager, 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 deputy who was the manager was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There was 1 reference and required validation available on file from a past employer in respect of 1 of the 4 adults attached to the service.
 - (b) There were 7 references and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the 4 adults.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 4 adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 of the 4 adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of the 2 adults that work directly with the children.

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 manager ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of the inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 4 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 who assisted the younger children when they washed and dried their hands before eating and after nappy changes.
- The children's need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as the care room was provided with a rest area consisting of a combination of soft matting and a child sized soft couch. The children were able to access the rest area as they chose for play or quiet time.

- The children’s need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to. The independent use of the toilet by the older children was encouraged and supported as appropriate by the adults.
- The younger children had their nappies changed regularly and it was noted that the adults carrying out these changes adhered to the Nappy Changing policy.
- The adults assisted and supported the children as they carried out play activities throughout the morning that interested them such as water play, dinky car play, balancing on beams, play with toy fish and looking at picture books.

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

- All the food eaten by the children for their mid-morning snack break was appetising and healthy. The food was provided by each child’s respective parents or guardians.
- On the morning of the inspection, the children were noted to eat grapes that had been halved and fruit that had been cut into slices. They were also provided with either sandwiches, or slices of cooked chicken.
- It was noted that 3 children sat in highchairs and 1 child sat at a child height table and that they were supervised and assisted by the adults as they ate their mid-morning snack.
- A fridge was available in the care room to store the children’s perishable food.
- A supply of appropriate crockery was available and provided to the children as required.
- Drinking water was available for any child that required a drink. Any child that was thirsty throughout the morning or required additional fluids could easily access a drink of water as their individual water bottles or beakers were stored on a low table in the care room.
- The service adhered to its Healthy Eating policy.

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 to the care room was secured to reduce the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The window blind cords were securely anchored by wall brackets.
- All cleaning agents were stored in a secured press out of children's reach.
- Liquid soap, paper towels and pedal operated bins were available beside each wash hand basin in the toilet areas and the care room.
- The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled to a temperature of no greater than 43°C. The water from the hot water taps was recorded at 24.5°C on the day of inspection.
- All flexes and leads were kept out of children's reach.
- The emergency exit door was kept unobstructed.
- The 2 high shelving units in the care room were anchored securely.
- The 3 highchairs were provided with harnesses and the children were safely secured when they were sitting in the highchairs.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and a secured gate that reduced the risk of unauthorised access by a person onto the premises or the leaving of an unsupervised child.

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)
The adults ensured that the times each child arrived and left the service were recorded in the service's roll book which was available for review by the inspector. On the day of the inspection the entry times in respect of the 4 attending children had been recorded.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(c)
The service was heated by means of electric heating and during the inspection, the air room temperature was recorded at 18.5°C.
The care room was well lit with a mixture of flush ceiling lights and 3 large windows. The windows in the care room had high openings and 1 was opened periodically during the inspection to ventilate the care room. An openable window was also available in the toilet and nappy changing cubicles to facilitate ventilation.

(d)
The care room and play materials were maintained in clean and good condition and detailed cleaning schedules were available for review.

(e) The children had access to 1 toilet cubicle and to a separate nappy changing cubicle that were both positioned directly off the care room. Each cubicle was provided with a wash hand basin, liquid soap, paper towels and a pedal operated bin. There was 1 toilet for use by the adults that was situated in the main building.