

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC326
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Name of Service:	Play & Learn Pre-School
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Address of Service:	Bawnmore, Macroom, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P12 HK30
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Name of Registered Provider:	Patty Creedon
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	08/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	8
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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:	Ms. O'Reilly
Title:	Early Years Inspector(s)

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

Play & Learn Pre-School is a privately owned registered early years' service in operation since 2009. This service provides education and care to children aged from 2 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional and part-time day-care service for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

The current opening hours are from 9:30am to 2:30pm each day Monday to Friday.

The premise is located in a rural area in Macroom Co Cork. The service operates from a purpose built detached single storey building located beside the registered providers private residence. The facility consists of one playroom, adequate children and adult toilet and nappy changing facilities. There is a spacious designated outdoor play area beside the playroom.

Staffing

The three adults present on the day of inspection were working directly with the children and this includes the registered provider. The staff working directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 registered provider/ 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 service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge and the deputy were present when the inspectors arrived at the premises and remained on duty until the end of the inspection.

(2)

The person in charge confirmed that one adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 18/06/21, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.

(a) There was one validated reference available on file from a past employer in respect of the adult.

(b) There was one validated reference from a source other than a past employers in respect of the adult.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the adult.

(d) Not applicable the adult had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more while over the age of 18 years.

(4)

The adult that worked directly with the children held a level eight degree in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of the inspection, there were with 18 children present in the morning and 8 children attending the part time day care in the afternoon with three adults working directly with the children. During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

(8) (c)

There were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

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)(a) to (i)

A sample portion of 15 children's registration forms. were reviewed and found to contain the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i) inclusive.

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

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The adults were observed to be caring in their interaction with the children and observed to be interested in the children's activities and listened and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language.

- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated through planning and having a variety of play and natural materials available to the children. Lots of positive interactive communication was observed.
- The children were given the opportunity to decide whether they wanted to eat indoors or outdoors and they all decided to eat the mid-morning snack outdoors on day of inspection.
- Outdoor play was a feature of the service and it was utilised to support children through participation and opportunity to play and learn outdoors.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playroom was safe, bright, clean and well maintained. The playroom had a number of interest areas such as a home/kitchen area, a reading area, a table top activities area, fine motor skills area.
- Other play equipment included matching games, shape sorters, different sized blocks, dolls, a dolls buggy easel, art and craft equipment and materials, farm and zoo animals and a selection fine motor play activities. The shelving was set low to display play materials which were mostly plastic and wooden in nature and easily washable. The low shelving facilitated easy access to the materials by the children.
- On arrival to the service the children were observed playing outdoors in the spacious outdoor play area which had a great variety of activities that the children could pick and choose to play from a tepee, see saw, slides, climbing wall, tents, ride on toys, basketball hoop, water play and sand with accompanying play equipment and bubble blowing. It was observed the children were closely supervised at all times.

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

- On day of inspection the food provided by the parents/guardians for the mid-morning snack were observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of food for example freshly cut fruit such as strawberries, blueberries and sandwiches, and yogurts with water to drink.
- There was a second food snack for the children that attended the part time service.

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:

- Access to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- The play materials, resources and equipment were in a satisfactory condition.
- Children had no access to cleaning equipment and materials

Infection Control:

- Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the service.
- The children had access to sufficient toilets, nappy changing area and wash hand basins.
- A supply of liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water was available at all wash hand basins.
- Hand washing occurred regularly and at required times before mid-morning snack, after toileting and outdoor play.

Safe Sleep

- There was suitable sleep equipment for children over two that required a sleep while attending the service. No child required a sleep on day of inspection.

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) Two staff had in date First Aid Responder certificates (FAR)
- (2)
- (a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach.
 - (b) The fully equipped first aid box was available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

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 fire fighting 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 29/05/23
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced in September 2022 and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced in June 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

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 the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.