

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC404			
Name of Service:	Templebreedy Pre-School			
Address of Service:	Church Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork			
Eircode:	P43 VP82			
Name of Registered Provider:	Barry Jenkins			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	28/05/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	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

Templebreedy Pre-School is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. It is located in a rural area on the outskirts of Crosshaven, Co Cork on the grounds of Templebreedy Church and National School. It is a privately operated service that is carried out in a room that was specifically adapted to meet the requirements of a childcare facility. There is an enclosed outdoor play area available to the front of the premises. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The opening hours are 09.15 to 12.15 hours each Monday to Friday.

Staffing

There are 5 adults attached to the service of which 3 adults, that each has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, the 3 adults were on the premises. The registered provider and 5th adult are not service based and do not work with the children.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,19, 22,25 and 26; however, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23. This finding is outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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 manager who was in charge and a named deputy that could deputise as required.

(b) 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 were 6 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 5 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 5 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of 2 of the 5 adults.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of 1 adult that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of 3 of the adults. The remainder 2 adults solely attended to administrative duties and were not service based.

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 morning of the inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 18 children up to 11.30 am at which time the third adult, who was at a meeting, arrived on the premises. 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 preschool was carried out in a 1 story prefabricated structure that was attached to 1 end of the National School premises. It consisted of a care room, 2 toilet cubicles, a storeroom and a corridor area that were all well maintained and kept in clean and good condition for children's use.
- The care room was furnished with child sized tables that were covered with colourful oil table cloths, child sized chairs, some low shelving and storage containers, a wall of high fitted presses and a large area of child sized soft seating that was set up attractively and interestingly for the children.

- There was a selection of bright and colourful arts and crafts about ladybirds and apples created by the children that were displayed on the walls of the care room.
- All play materials such as the dinosaurs, tabletop activities, soft toys, the play kitchen, home items, library books, arts and crafts and toys were all displayed interestingly on low shelving and storage containers and were easily visible and accessible to the children.
- A low fridge was available in the care room and the children's individual water bottles were stored in it. It was noted that the early years children were able to access their water bottles independently if they were thirsty and needed a drink of water.
- There was a designated outdoor play area, solely for use by the early years children, located to the front of the care room. This area was secured by high fencing and gates and was provided with an artificial type of grass ground surface. A wash hand basin with thermostatically controlled warm water was provided in the corner of the outdoor area to facilitate children with hygienic handwashing after outdoor play. There were different interest areas provided for use by the children such as a slide with attached climbing frame, a play tunnel, mounted black boards, a playhouse, a play kitchen, a water play table and multiple tables with attached benches for children to sit at or use during their activities.

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 food for the children's snack break was provided by their respective parents or guardians.
- During the inspection it was noted that the food ate by the children was appetising and healthy. The adults informed the inspector that parents were provided with information about healthy food at the start of the preschool year and were told no food treats were allowed at this service.
- A fridge was provided in the care room for the safe storage of the children's perishable food.

- On the day of inspection, the mid-morning snack consisted of a variety of sliced fruit such as watermelon, strawberries, and apples. Some children had yogurt, crackers, sandwiches, sliced cucumber, and carrots.
- Drinking water was always accessible to the children. The children's individual bottles of water were stored in the low fridge and were easily accessible to the children.

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 care room was secured by a lock that prevented unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The internal door leading into the national school premises was maintained secure to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The door leading into the storeroom off the corridor was maintained secure to prevent access by an unsupervised child.
- The doors attached to the high fitted presses on 1 wall of the care room were kept secured.
- The 4 strip light bulbs in the care room were each fitted with a protective cover.
- The blind cords attached to each of the 4 windows and 1 upper glass door were safely secured by wall brackets.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of 3 of the 5 adults. These 3 garda vetting records were dated more than 3 years.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting in respect of 3 of the adults was reapplied for immediately after the inspection and was obtained on 17 June 2024. The manager will ensure that the adult's files are reviewed annually, and that Garda vetting is updated as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Copies of the processed documents were submitted to the inspectorate for review.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the manager was 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 1 adult had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that this adult was always on the premises.

(2)
(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available at the premises and it was stored in a secured press 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)
- (a) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on the 16 April 2024.
 - (b) Records regarding the number and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. Records regarding the wired smoke alarm demonstrated that it had a maintenance service on 26 February 2024.
- (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 on the wall near the entrance door to the care room.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) An up-to-date annual maintenance service record regarding the firefighting equipment was not available for review. The records demonstrated that the fire equipment was last serviced on 15 February 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (b) The manager informed the inspectorate on 17 June 2024 that the fire equipment had been serviced unknown to her on 20 February 2024. She will ensure it continues to be serviced annually and that the service certificate is available on file for review.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)
- (b) A copy of the fire equipment maintenance service dated 20 February 2024 was submitted to the inspectorate on 17 June 2024.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the manager was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.