

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC427		
Name of Service:	Timoleague Community Playschool and After School Club		
Address of Service:	Community Centre, Timoleague, Bandon, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	P72 F884		
Name of Registered Provider:	Lelia O'Hea		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	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	Not Applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Timoleague Community Playschool and After School Club is a community operated sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years. The opening hours for the service are 08.45 to 12.15 hours daily and 13.00 to 16.00 hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. The service operates from a section of the local community centre that was purposely adapted as a childcare setting. It is situated close to the National School and other amenities in the village of Timoleague, Co. Cork. The premise consists of 1 care room, a kitchen, office, storeroom, toilet facilities, a roof covered outdoor play area and an enclosed outdoor play area.

Staffing

There are 9 adults attached to the service including the registered provider, an administrative adult and an adult on community employment. The registered provider is not service based. Each of the 6 adults that work directly with the children has 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 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,*

(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 was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

(a) There were 14 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 9 adults attached to the service.

(b) There were 4 reference and required validation on file from sources other than past employers.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 9 adults.

(d) Police vetting was available on file in respect of 2 of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more.

(4)

A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of 6 of the 9 adults. The registered provider was not service based and there was an adult on Community Employment (C.E) and an administrative adult that did not work directly with the children.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The Healthy Eating Policy was assessed by the inspector and was found to be detailed and in compliance with the regulatory requirements.

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 adults always working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of the inspection there were 3 adults working directly with 17 children present. There was also an adult on Community Employment (C.E) and an administrative adult. 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)
- It was noted that the adults instilled confidence in the children by listening to them and providing them with positive reassurance and praise for tasks well done such as hand washing.
 - The children participated together in activities such as playing the game 'Freeze', singing the 'Adams' song, free play, outdoor games, dancing, colouring, dinosaur and block play. It was noted that the children played together easily, and that the children were respectful to each other while participating in activities such as sharing and taking turns on the tricycles.

- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. General Information regarding the services' facilities and activities was provided to them electronically or by means of a parent's handbook. An annual Open Day at the service, was available to all potential parents and guardians. General information was shared daily with participating parents and guardians by means of emails, social applications and by notice boards which were displayed near the drop off and collection door.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged in a quiet upstairs room as requested by them regarding their respective child.
- The service carried out weekly team meetings to plan care and discuss issues and records of the meetings were available for review by the inspector.
- The service had developed strong links with the Cork County Childcare Committee and Early Childhood Ireland and were in regular contact with these support bodies.

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 daily snacks was provided by the children's respective parents or guardians.
- On the day of inspection, the children's mid-morning snacks consisted of either sliced fruit, ham or cheese sandwiches, yogurt and water to drink.
- A water fountain and cups were stored on a low table and the children's individual water bottles were always available to the children as they wanted them.
- Crockery was available to the children during their mid-morning snack break.

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 premises was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by fencing and secured gates to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The doors leading into the kitchen, office area and outdoor storeroom were kept secured and were not accessible to the children.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- The low-level glass panels throughout the premises were fitted with visibility strips.
- The blind cords on windows were safely secured with wall brackets.
- The radiators in the care room were provided with protective covers.

Infection Control:

- Detailed daily and weekly cleaning templates were available on a digital application used by the service, and it was noted that the premises, equipment and play materials were all kept in clean and good condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper dispensers. The water temperature was recorded at 20.1°C during the inspection.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored on individually labelled hooks positioned on a wall in the outdoor roof covered area.
- Disposable paper tissues were available both in the care room and in the roof covered outdoor area for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.

- Apron covers were available for the children to protect their clothing from spillages and stains whilst participating in messy play or painting activities.
- A fridge was available on the premises for the storage of the children's perishable food.

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 3 adults had training in first aid response (FAR) and that one of these adults was always on the premises.

(2)

(a) There was a fully equipped first aid box available the premises and it was stored high on a high shelf in the care room out of children's reach.

(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

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 daily which was 22 early years children. The start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024, the category of service covered which sessional service and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available on the premises. There were two toilet cubicles beside the care room for use by the 17 early years children. There was also a wash hand basin positioned in the care room and a hand wash basin in the roof covered outdoor area for use by the children for additional hand washing. There was a toilet and wash hand basin for adult use positioned off the main foyer. Each wash hand basin was provided with liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water for hand washing. The water temperature was recorded at 20.1° during the inspection. Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used paper towels and used tissues.