

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE037		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Funscoil Deilfeanna Beaga		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Church Street, Carrigaholt National School, Carrigaholt, Kilrush, Co. Clare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V15 A271		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marian Crotty Hedderman		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	24/04/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM -
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla, Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare V95TY4E		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Ni Niallain & P. Magner		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector & Inspection Registration Manager		

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Funscoil Deilfeanna Beaga is a sessional pre-school service located in a classroom in Carraigaholt National School in Co. Clare. It operates from 9.00am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday. The service can cater for a maximum of 22 pre-school children.

### Staffing

The registered provider operates the sessional service with the assistance of two adults, who were present on the day when the unannounced inspection was carried out. A third level student was also present.

### 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/ and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 19,23, 25, 26, 27, and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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.

### Additional Information

This inspection was carried out because of information received to the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) On the day of the inspection, the registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present on the premises. The staff roster indicated that the designated person or their deputy were always available on site.

(2)(a) Validated references from past employers were available for some of the adults employed in the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from a source other than a past employer were provided.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for three adults and one student working at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period greater than six months.

(4) Two adults working directly with children in the service held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. A third adult held a component special needs certificate and is in the process of completing a childcare course.

## 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) On the day of Inspection there were three adults and one student working with thirteen pre-school children.

The adult to child ratio in the service was correct.

(2) The staff roster showed that the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.

(8) (c) Not applicable more than two adults were available in the service.

## 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.*

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

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person.

### Compliance Information

(1) Nineteen children's files were inspected. The service maintained an adequate record for these children attending the service, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i).

(3)(a) Parents/guardians had access to all information and written records relating to their own child.

(b) Records were available to the authorised person in the service.

(c) Records were open and available for inspection to the Tusla Early Years Inspectors.

## 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:

- There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. The parents supplied the snacks and drinks for their child. Pre-school children were provided with adequate nutritious food. Perishable items were stored in a fridge in the playroom. Drinks of water were available to children throughout the session.
- Self-toileting was observed as most of the children attending were independent regarding their toileting needs. Appropriate nappy changing facilities were also available.
- Personal cleanliness and hand washing was encouraged and supervised.
- The pre-school children had ample space to move freely in the indoor and outdoor environments. All the children had an opportunity to play outside. Children were observed playing with sand, ball play, running and engaging in imaginative play activities including playing in the new wooden play house.

- Children’s behaviour was managed appropriately, and the adults positively encouraged and praised good behaviour.

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The children were supported to interact appropriately with their peers and were confident and comfortable in their environment.
- The staff were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them, and responded to their questions. The staff interacted in a positive way with the children, they sat at children’s level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child, and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- In conversation with staff, the inspectors were informed that they verbally provided parents with information on their child’s experiences in the pre-school including the child’s likes, and play activities engaged in.

### 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 service had taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children attending the service:

The entrance door into the service was secured thus preventing children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prohibiting unauthorised persons from entering the service. There were no hazards identified in the playroom.

The school gate was closed while the children played outdoors. Children were actively supervised by the adult while playing outdoors.

### Infection Control:

The premises was clean, newly painted and decorated and was well maintained.

### Administration of Medication:

No medication either prescription or non-prescription was administered to children on the day.

### Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

### Outings:

Trips to the local beach in small groups and an annual outing was organised by the service. An outings policy and a risk management policy were available in the service and the adults were aware of safety procedures for outings.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. Thermostatically controlled hot water was not available for hygienic hand washing for the children and adults present in the service. It was also a requirement for hygienic nappy changing which takes place in the service on a daily basis. The temperature of the water measured 12° C. This poses a risk of cross infection to the children and adults attending. This issue was non-compliant on 2 previous inspections dated 10/06/2022, 15/02/2019.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a CAPA response on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which stated:

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

Hand washing will take place at the wash hand basin in the playroom where the temperature of the water is sufficient until the temperature of the water in the sanitary accommodation is rectified.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Written submission.

### Summary Comment

While it is acknowledged that the interim measures taken by the registered provider will ensure hygienic hand washing will take place when required, the non-compliance remains outstanding as thermostatically controlled hot water is not available at the wash hand basin in the sanitary area.

### 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 adults present in the service had updated First Aid Responder training and the certificates were valid to December 2023. A third adult had first aid for children certification valid to January 2024.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in designated area in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

### 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) Records are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises with the most recent services having been completed on the 9th of October 2022.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 27 – Supervision**

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

**Compliance Information**

The pre-school children were observed to be always supervised by the adults in the indoor and outdoor environments for the duration of the inspection. Staff were aware of what actions to take to supervise children when playing outdoors.

**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 28 - Insurance**

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

**Compliance Information**

The insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection. The required cover was available for a maximum of 22 pre-school children who could attend at any one time.