

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015CE112 | | |
| Name of Service: | Páistí Beaga Creche & Montessori | | |
| Address of Service: | Newline Road, Quin, Co. Clare | | |
| Eircode: | V95 PN82 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Patricia Hennessey , John Hennessey | | |
| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional | | |
| Date(s) of Inspection: | 28/04/2023 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 41 | PM 33 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla, Ennis Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare. | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | M. Ní Nialláin | | |
| 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

Páistí Beaga Creche & Montessori was established in 2004 and is a privately operated service offering full day care, part-time and sessional care for pre-school children. The early years' service is in the village of Quin. The service opens from 08:00 to 17:30pm Monday to Fridays.

Staffing

Seventeen adults including the joint registered providers were employed in the service. All adults employed to work directly with children held an appropriate qualification in childcare.

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, 11, 19, 23, 25, 26, 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the joint registered providers, 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) On the day of the inspection one of the joint registered providers and a manager were the designated persons 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 persons in charge were present on the premises. The staff roster indicated that the registered provider or the designated person in charge were always available on site.

(2)(a) Two validated references from past employers were available for some of the adults.

(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 seventeen adults employed at the service.

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

(4) Fourteen adults employed to work directly with children held an appropriate qualification 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)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of Inspection there were thirteen adults including one of the joint registered providers and the deputy manager working with forty-one pre-school children. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct.

(2) The written staff roster showed that the joint registered providers ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service. Another two adults present were engaged in administrative and cooking duties.

(8) (a) The service was not operated single-handedly, and more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS:

- Adequate, suitable, nutritious, and varied food and drink was observed to be available for the pre-school child attending the service. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack and meal.
- The privacy and dignity of the children was respected. Toileting and nappy changing were carried out in a sensitive manner.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and stage of development. Regular hand washing was observed by the children.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement in the playrooms and in the outdoor area.
- Sleep facilities are available in two sleep rooms, with an adequate supply of cots available to facilitate sleep on demand for all children. Low level beds were used for the older children.
- Children were monitored while sleeping and all checks are documented.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

There were seven indoor playrooms in the service.

- The rooms were designated according to the age group of the children using them.
- The playrooms were laid out with uncluttered, clear floor spaces for the children to play safely.
- All rooms were well resourced, and children had the opportunity for different types of play and learning were available and accessible in all rooms and in the outdoor areas.
- The service has a large enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the facility. A wooden shed facilitated play with giant blocks. A climbing frame with slide and balancing games and activities were also available.
- There was a cycle way with a selection of trikes, bikes, tractors, tables, chairs, and a playhouse.
- An open outdoor shed provided a large play space and also shelter in hot/inclement weather. It was equipped with low level tables /chairs, decorative lighting and with play equipment and materials 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 persons in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults, and visitors to the service. The entrance to the service was secured with a keypad security system.
- The external outdoor play area was secured and fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms, communal, and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by natural and mechanical forms of ventilation.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults. Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- A designated nappy changing area was available in the service and nappy changing procedures were appropriate.

Administration of Medication:

- Appropriate documentation was available in the event that medication was required by a child attending the service. Relevant information was recorded on the service electronic application. Medication was not administered in the service on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Standard cots were available in two sleep rooms off the Baby room. Sleep beds were available for children aged over 2 years of age should they require sleep or rest. Sleeping children were monitored and a log was maintained on the service electronic application.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

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) Five adults present in the service had updated First Aid Responder training and the certificates were valid to June 2023, February and November 2024.

(2)(a) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in designated areas in each playroom.

(b) The first aid boxes were 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 in April 2023.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions 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 insurance certificate for the service was available and in date on inspection. The required cover was available for a maximum of 70 pre-school children who could attend at any one time.