

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE115
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Name of Service:	Redeemers Pre-school
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Address of Service:	131 Dun na hInse, Lahinch Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 WE51
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ruth Ogundare
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Station Road Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ní Nialláin
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

This service opened in 2007. The service provides full day care service for up to a maximum of thirty-five pre-school children, between the ages of 1- 6 years. The service is open Monday-Friday 08.30hrs - 18.00hrs.

Staffing

There were eight adults in total employed in the service and all were present on the day of the inspection. Three were employed in a support role. The service provider was involved in the day to day running of the service and was present on the day of inspection

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 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.

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 provide, 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 for her 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 designated person in charge or her deputy were always available on the premises.

(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 eight adults employed at the service.

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

(4) The five adults employed to work directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. A further two of the three adults employed in a support capacity were undertaking childcare courses.

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 eight adults working with twenty-one pre-school children in the morning. In the afternoon there were five adults working with fifteen pre-school children. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct.

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

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

(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) A total of 37 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

(19)(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS;

- Parents provided some of the snack foods and lunches for their child. On the day, children's snacks consisted of filled sandwiches, toast, yoghurts, a selection of fresh fruits and raw vegetables supplied by the service. Some lunches were home prepared by the parents. Drinking water was always available to the children in the playrooms. The service always had a variety of fresh fruit available to the children.
- Children could access the sanitary accommodation at any time and were given assistance if required.
- Good personal hygiene practices were observed. Children washed their hands before meals and after toileting and outdoor play.
- Children had opportunities to move about freely in the playrooms and outdoor play area. The children

played outdoors for most of the inspection.

- The adults were positive and consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT.

- Three playrooms and an outdoor playroom were available to the pre-school children. Play equipment and materials in the rooms were arranged to provide an area with a display rack of picture and story books and low-level tables and chairs as well as soft floor seating. Home corner sections in each room contained a play cooker with accessories and household objects. Open shelf sections held containers of various stackable blocks, connecting bricks, animal toys, transport toys, soft toys, peg boards, lacing and threading materials, painting and arts and crafts materials.
- The play resources were visible to the children were accessible to them on open low level shelving units. An appropriate range and quantity of play resources were provided for the numbers of children attending.
- A large enclosed outdoor play area was provided to the rear of the premises. It had a grassy, tarmac and all weather ground surface. The area was divided in two and the smaller area was covered to facilitate outdoor play in all weathers. The outdoor area had well developed interest areas. It had outdoor sand tables, bench seating and storage sheds for outdoor equipment which included ride on tractors, trikes, and rockers. A fixed piece of equipment, mud kitchen with accessories, climbing frames, playhouses, swings, slides, facilities to play ball games with goal posts and other games were also available.

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 person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children and adults in the service. The entrance to the service was secured with a security system.
- The outdoor play area was secured with concrete high walls and gates.

Infection Control:

- Playrooms, communal, and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by natural 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.

Administration of Medication:

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

Safe Sleep:

- A standard cot and sleep beds were available in a sleep room for children should they require sleep or rest.

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) Four adults present in the service had updated First Aid training and the certificates were valid to February 2024 and March 2025.

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

(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 September 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 valid to 27th March 2024. The required cover was available for a maximum of 35 pre-school children who could attend at any one time.