

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE143
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Name of Service:	Tiggers Nest
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Address of Service:	Annagh, Lackyle, Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V94 YV8K
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Keogh
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare
Inspection undertaken by:	A.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
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Description of service

Tiggers Nest was established in 1999, as a private, sessional service, in a rural area, in Ardnacrusha, County Clare. The service facilitates a programme of care and education for children ranging in age from three to six years, Monday to Friday from 08:45 to 11:45. The childcare facility is located within a designated care room in a detached, single storey building. An enclosed outdoor space is available adjacent to the service.

Staffing

Two adults are employed by the service. On the 11 September 2024 the registered provider worked alongside a second adult in the service.

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 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. 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 provider and member of 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 registered provider was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider and a named person to deputise were available at all times during the inspection.

(2)

Two files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

(a)

Two written references from past employers in respect of adults working in the service were available.

(b)

Two written references were available in respect adults working in the service from a source other than a past employer.

(c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the two adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)
Not applicable, international police vetting was not required for the adults working in the service.

(4)
The two adults working directly with the children hold Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications at Level 6 and Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)
During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(3)
On the 11 September 2024 the ratio of adults supervising children was maintained in the service. Two adults supervised the five children in attendance.

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)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard to the age and level of development of the children.

Basic Needs of the Infants & Children:

The adults interacted with the children in a kind and caring manner and sat with and listened attentively to the children. The adults demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's capabilities, preferences and interests. Prior to change in transitions in activities the children were notified in advance. The children were encouraged to be independent whilst caring for their belongings, during the activities and whilst using the toilet. The children and adults sat and ate together during mealtime and conversed amicably. Mealtime was observed to be unhurried and a sociable occasion. The programme of play based activities and education was led by the children. The adults offered praise and encouragement and the children were respected and supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities.

Physical & Material Environment:

The children transitioned from the indoor to the outdoor environment. The indoor environment was laid out with defined areas of interest. Low level seating and tables were provided for the children. The play materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to the children on low level shelving. The room was laid out with an art area, a home corner, a musical area, a car garage, an area with reading materials, a farm area and shelving units contained a range of manipulative, construction, creative, exploratory equipment and materials.

The outdoor play area was provided to the side of the service. The play area consisted of a bark mulch surface. The area included a play frame with a slide, a sand pit, a swing, a wooden mud kitchen with accessories, seating and various transport vehicles.

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 was secured with a key coded, bell operated system to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing and a gate to protect the children within.
- The children in attendance were recorded on arrival and on departure from the service.
- Cleaning agents and storage areas were inaccessible to the children.
- All the toys and play equipment in the indoor and outdoor areas were maintained in good condition.
- Domestic waste was stored in a secured area which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The childcare facility was maintained in a clean and a hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facility was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and a pedal operated bin.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals during the session.

Administration of Medication:

- The registered provider stated that medication is not routinely administered by the service.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exit routes and passageways in the service were clear from obstruction.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable at the front of the building.
- Records of completed fire drills were available.

Outing:

- The registered provider confirmed that outings are not undertaken by 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)

Two adults working in the service had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a readily identifiable area in the care room.

(b)

A first aid box was available in the room for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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 were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were carried out in the service in 2023/2024. A fire drill took place during the inspection.

(b)

A record of the number, type and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were

available. The most recent firefighting equipment and smoke alarm maintenance service took place respectively on the June 2024 and August 2024.

(4)
Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed throughout the service.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for eleven pre-school children attending on a sessional basis. The policy is valid until the 27 March 2025.