

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE148		
Name of Service:	Toddle Inn		
Address of Service:	Bru na Sionna, Shannon, Co. Clare		
Eircode:	V14 D718		
Name of Registered Provider:	Cora Devaney		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	16/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	64	PM 64
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne & J Ryan		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		

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

Toddle Inn is a privately operated full day care service in operation in Shannon since 2008. It provides care for pre-school children on a sessional, part time and full day care basis. The service is open from 7.30am to 17.30hrs, Monday to Friday. It is registered to cater for up to 99 pre-school children in the morning and 86 in the afternoon.

There are six pre-school rooms in the service, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation/nappy change areas and two dedicated sleep rooms. The outdoor play area is divided into sections and is located at the front and rear of the premises. These areas are directly accessible from the preschool rooms.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service. A designated manager is appointed to oversee the operations of the facility.

There were 13 staff (including the registered provider) working across 6 playroom on the day of the inspection and 2 additional staff were available in the afternoon.

All staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 level 6 and Level 8.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19,21,23,25,26, 28 and 29. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 present and there was a named person available who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider and the named deputy were present on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee. This was displayed on the notice board at the main entrance to the service.

(2) The files of all the staff working in the service were viewed and the following information was on file.

(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for many of staff working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from reputable sources available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau were available for all staff employed at the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(4) The adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5, 6 and 8 as listed on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for one staff who had lived in another state for longer than 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

Police vetting has been sought for this one staff. This staff member has also planned to leave the service commencing the 20th of October 2023

All CV's to be thoroughly read before interview and to ensure police vetting staff has been sought for new staff who have lived in another state for longer than 6 months.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email attached to demonstrate that the staff is planning to leave employment.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(d) have been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 64 pre-school children, 11 school aged children and 13 staff on the premises. The adult/child ratio 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.

There was one adult present who was engaged in the cooking duties

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

BASIC NEEDS:

There was a healthy eating policy in place at the service with fresh food prepared on site every day. Foods were delivered to each room. Low level feeding chairs with safety straps and appropriate cutlery, feeding utensils, bibs and face cloths were available for the babies and younger children.

Drinks were easily accessible to the children throughout the day.

Sanitary accommodation was located close to each room in the service.

There were 2 separate sleep rooms with standard cots available for children under 2 years who required a sleep.

Low level beds were accessible for the older children if required. Cots are deep cleaned between use and separate bed linen is provided for each child.

Children had access to outdoor play facilities from each playroom. Appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear was available to all children. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

There were 5 pre-school rooms and 1 school aged room operational in the service on the day of the inspection.

Outdoor play areas were located to the front and rear of the premises and were accessible from all the playrooms.

The children had the freedom to move between the various interest areas developed. Play materials were rotated on a regular basis depending on each child's emergent interests, preferences and changing abilities.

A range of play equipment was observed in each room included dolls house with accessories, wooden blocks, plastic blocks, toy cars and trucks, play dough, book boxes with variety of good quality books, musical instruments, dress up outfits, chalk board with chalk and a good range of art and craft materials. Additional equipment was available and rotated into these rooms periodically.

Outdoor play equipment was observed in the outdoor play areas. This equipment included two wooden climbing houses, a large wooden boat, a wooden play bus and a large wooden play car with a trailer. Ride on equipment, trikes and balance bikes were available. Gardening areas and planting spaces were also created.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

In the Baby room staff had to be alerted to change a child's nappy as there was a strong odour in the room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

This was discussed with the staff and they were encouraged to follow the nappy changing procedures for each child as documented.

Supporting documentation submitted

No

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance identified. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

The adult sized couch in the Baby room appeared worn and in poor state of repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An adult couch was ordered from a supplier.

The maintenance checks of equipment to include the soft seating and its state of repair.

Staff were asked to be alert for any damaged play and work equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Order form attached.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance identified. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The temperature of the water at the wash hand basins in all the sanitary facilities was recorded at 19 degrees Celsius and needed to be adjusted to a maximum temperature 43 degrees Celsius to ensure hygienic washing of hands for staff and children before and after nappy changing, before meals times and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
2. Handwashing was not observed to be done by staff before spoon feeding the babies their dinner. This posed a risk of cross infection.
3. The children in the Baby room did not have their hand washed before eating their dinner. This increased the risk of cross infection.
4. A staff member did not remove her apron and gloves after changing a child's nappy before returning the child to the playroom. These should have been removed before leaving the changing facility to reduce the risk of cross infection. The nappy changing policy was not displayed in the nappy changing facility to remind staff of safe and hygienic procedures and the measures to be taken to reduce the risk of cross infection

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Infection Control:

1. The boiler has been fixed and the water temperature is set to a temperature of 35.3^ocelcius The boiler will be serviced annually.
2. The staff have received instructions on hand washing and the appropriate times when to wash hands. Hand washing signs are displayed to encourage and remind staff as to when to wash hands and the logistics involved.
3. The staff received a refresher on when to wash the children's hands particularly before all meals.
4. A refresher inhouse training on nappy changing procedure was carried out with all staff. Nappy changing policy is displayed in the nappy changing unit for all the staff. The staff will receive a regular refresher on the nappy changing policies and procedure for the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photo attached.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances identified. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) There were staff on duty at all times who had up to date first aid response training.
- (2)
- (a) There were first aid boxes located in the service.
- (b) The first aid boxes were readily available and accessible if required.

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 firefighting 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 show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis and the date of the last fire drill was the 13th of July 2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment was available and it was dated the 15th of August 2022. It has had its annual service on the 29th of August 2023.

The smoke alarm system record was available on the premises and it was dated the 29th of August 2022.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the service.

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 on inspection and was in date up 28/03/2024. The insurance provides cover for 90 children to attend the early years' service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(b) safe and secure

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

- (b)
1. There was two bags of potting compost, a box of books, and boxes of clothes located in the reception area of the service. This posed a safety risk to the staff, children and parents when entering and leaving the service.
 2. The equipment in the room beside the reception was not stored safely and in an organised way. The preschool children could access this room as the door was open and posed a risk of injury to the children. It is acknowledged that the registered provider stated that this room had been used as storage area while the premises has been painted.
- (d)
3. The outside play area to the rear of the facility was untidy and in need of a deep clean. There was build up leaves, earth and sand in this area.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Compost, books, clothes removed from reception.
2. The room beside reception has been re-organised, equipment safely stacked away after painting finished.
3. Outside play area to the rear of the premises was cleaned, power washed and re-organised.

Supporting documentation submitted

No

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances identified. This will be reviewed on next inspection.