

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CE150		
Name of Service:	Tulla Community Preschool		
Address of Service:	Old Boys School, Main Street, Tulla, Co. Clare		
Eircode:	V95 VY80		
Name of Registered Provider:	Amanda Corrigan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	12/12/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E		
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

Description of service

Tulla Community Preschool was notified to Tusla in 1997, as a sessional service for children ranging in age from two to six years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year. Care and learning are facilitated in one room in the old boy's school premises which is now known as the community centre in Tulla village in County Clare. An enclosed outdoor space is located at the rear of the service for use by the children.

Staffing

On the 12th of December 2023 three adults worked directly with the children in attendance. The registered provider does not work in the service. The adults working directly with the children hold Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from level 6 to level 8 on the on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 may also focus on other areas as required. 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 person in charge, 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 manager was the designated person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The manager was available throughout the inspection.

(2)

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

(a)

Five written and verified past employer references were available.

(b)

Three written and verified references were obtained from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the four adults employed by the service.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as the adults present had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months.

(4)

The adults working directly with the children held qualification ranging from level 6 to 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)
The registered provider ensured that the children attending the pre-school service were supervised at all times.
- (3)
On the 12th of December 2023 the minimum ratio of adults caring for the children was maintained at all times. Three adults worked directly with the fourteen children in attendance in the morning.

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)
Enrolment forms were available for the number of children registered in the service. These forms were reviewed and detailed the required particulars outlined in (1) (a)-(i).

(3)(a)(b)(c)
The children’s registration forms were available for inspection in the service.

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 of Children:

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service. Staff cared for the children in a kind, caring and sensitive manner and responded promptly to the children's cues for comfort. The staff supported the children to be independent in play, during toileting, caring for their personal belongings and during mealtime. The children were treated with positive regard during all interactions and the staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's individual preferences and capabilities. The children were supported as they played individually and as part of the group.

Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor and outdoor environments were suitably resourced for the age range and needs of the children in attendance. The children were observed to thoroughly enjoy the morning activities and freely moved throughout the care room which is located to the rear of the community hall. On arrival to the service the children were engaged in open ended, play based, tabletop activities. These activities included imaginative, manipulative, constructive and creative play. The transitions in the programme of care and learning were completed in a cohesive manner, the staff communicated changes in activities in advance to the children. The children transitioned from open ended play to circle time and engaged in discussions in relation to the days of the week, the weather, a Christmas story, Christmas songs, preparation for the Christmas concert and gathered together to make Christmas artwork.

The care room was laid out with low level shelving, tables and chairs that are accessible to the children. Defined areas of interest included: a construction and home corner, an area for rest and relaxation with seating and a large range of reading materials. An art area, sensory area and three shelving units accommodated developmentally appropriate play materials and equipment.

The walls displayed learning materials, numerical and alphabetical aids, birthday displays, children’s artwork, an emotions display used daily by the children and an overview of the emerging themes. An enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the building offering a large space for the children to freely engage in physical, imaginative and creative play. The enclosed area had a grass and a synthetic surface with a range of suitably equipped resources. The play area included activity units with swings, slides, planters and a pretend playhouse.

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:

- Upon the inspectors arrival the entrance to the service was appropriately secured to prevent children leaving the service and unauthorised persons entering the service.
- The children’s arrival and departure times were recorded in a logbook.
- Cleaning agents and medication were secured appropriately out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The care room, sanitary facilities, and equipment within were maintained in a clean condition.
- Running warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded bins were available. Child friendly illustrated posters were displayed in the sanitary facility to promote good washing practices.
- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals which included: prior to mealtime, after messy play and after using the toilet.
- Perishable food items were stored in a fridge in the service.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection. The manager and staff demonstrated a good knowledge of administering medication.
- A service policy was available to inform practice.
- Documentation was available should prescription or non-prescription medication be required.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- A fire assembly point was readily identifiable to the rear of the service.
- The service maintained records of completed monthly fire drills to prepare for evacuation of the service in the event of a fire.
- Staff members held records of completed fire safety training.

Outing:

- The manager confirmed that outings are undertaken by the service and demonstrated a good knowledge in relation to the conduct of outings.
- A service policy was available for use by staff to inform practice.

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 members of staff had records of up to date First Aid Response training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible position in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was available 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. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 6th of November 2023.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place on the 7th of March 2023 and January 2023 respectively.

(4)

A fire action notice was displayed in the service demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

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 twenty-two children attending on a sessional basis. The policy is valid until the 27th of March 2024.