

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN009		
Name of Service:	Ballyjamesduff Community Pre-School		
Address of Service:	St Teresa's Hall, Oldcastle Road, Ballyjamesduff, Co. Cavan		
Eircode:	A82 R282		
Name of Registered Provider:	Kevin Foley		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	15/10/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham		
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

This sessional service is located in Ballyjamesduff Co. Cavan. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is currently open from Monday to Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm. The service caters for a maximum of 40 preschool children. The premises is in a converted community building.

Staffing

There are five staff members employed in the service, one of whom was providing relief 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/ premises and facilities. 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. 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 manager, 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Five files were reviewed, and the following was noted.

- (a) & (b) Ten validated written references were available for the staff members.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for all staff member which were obtained within the 3 years' timeframe. The service also demonstrated with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the staff member who had resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The staff members working directly with preschool children had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- (6) (a) One staff member was employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. Four staff members cared for 16 preschool children.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct;
- The **Sunflower Room** Two adults (one staff providing AIM support) cared for 7 children.
- The **Bluebell Room**: Two adults cared for 9 children.
- The manager arrived at the service during the inspection from their full day care service in Ballyjamesduff.

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 of Infants and Children

- A healthy nutritious snack in line with the healthy eating policy of the service was provided for the children attending the service by their parents.
- The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to the age and stage of development, including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings.
- An appropriate daily routine was in place which allocate times for child-initiated play and learning and adult planned and facilitated activities. Children moved about the outdoor area exploring and investigating nature, picking leaves, playing with mud and listening to the birds.
- Children had outdoor gear available such as pull up trousers, coats and boots.
- Transitions were clearly announced and signaled by staff. Children were given time to complete activities at their own pace before starting the next activity. This approach respected the children's learning engagements and resulted in a smooth flow in the routine.
- Snack time was a very social event which took place in dining areas outside the Sunflower and Bluebell room with animated conversations and discussions. Staff encouraged children to be independent and to develop self-care skills at every opportunity.

Supporting Relationships Around the Children:

- Relationships between staff and the children were very supportive, warm, and consistently positive. Staff sat at the child's level while assisting them with activities. Staff were overheard praising children for sharing toys and supported children to find positive solutions to minor disputes.
- The staff members engaged in play activities with the children with lots of enthusiasm and laughter observed.

- The children appeared confident and relaxed in their environment. Language development was facilitated through reading, songs, and conversation.

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.

Compliance Information

The care rooms had well defined and supported areas of interest which included library areas beside rest areas, wooden puzzles and building blocks, art and craft materials and montessori equipment. The rooms were bright and airy, and children had room to work on the tables or the floor if they wished. Children’s artwork was displayed on the walls in a way that respects and acknowledges all the children’s efforts. Natural materials were available throughout the service such as in the home area, construction area and art easels.

The outdoor area was available to the back and side of the building with a hard surface area and grass area. Equipment available in the outdoor area included a sand pit, slide, shelter area, tyres, benches, ride on toys, swings and pebble area for digging.

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 entrance door to the service was controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school rooms. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The staff members ensured that grapes provided for snacks were cut in half to mitigate the risk of a child potentially choking.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established and observed. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues and paper towel. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for all room environments which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

Administration of Medication

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection and during conversations with staff members, they advised they were aware of the procedure

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

Compliance Information

(1) A record was kept of each child's time of arrival and departure on a daily basis by the staff members.

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) The service provided evidence that persons had up to date First Aid Responders course and were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers serviced in October 2024 and smoke alarms in the premises were serviced on the 19th March 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid insurance certificate for 40 preschool children with an expiry date of 27th March 2025.