

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Cn01TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN011		
Name of Service:	Bunnoe Playschool		
Address of Service:	Bunnoe Community Centre, Lisboduff, Cootehill, Bunnoe, Co. Cavan		
Eircode:	H16 P031		
Name of Registered Provider:	Kelly Brady		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/11/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84.		
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Mc Kenna & D. Duffy		
Title:	Early Years Inspector, Inspection & Registration Manager		
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

Bunnoe Playschool is a community run preschool service operating from a community centre located in the rural area of Bunnoe Co. Cavan. A sessional service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years, Monday to Friday between 9.30am – 12.30pm. The service caters for a maximum of 22 preschool children. The service is registered to cater for school aged children. There are two designated outdoor areas located to the side and rear of the building. There is parking available to the sides and front of the building.

Staffing

There are 5 staff employed in the service to include 2 preschool staff, 2 school aged staff and 1 staff member employed on a community employment scheme. The registered provider is not service based.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 24, 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. 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 person in charge, deputy 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 service has a designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the person in charge and a review of the staff roster, it was confirmed that at all times when the preschool service was in operation the designated person in charge or the named person in charge were on the premises.

(2) The staff files for five adults were reviewed.

(a) (b) Two written and validated references from past employers, and or reputable sources in the absence of past employments were on file for five adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all five adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all employed staff.

(d) A review of the employment history for three adults on file, demonstrated that two adults had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the two adults employed to work with preschool children, held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The required police vetting for one adult who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months was not available for inspection.

Two employment records on file were incomplete, therefore it could not be determined if police vetting were required for the two adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) Staff member applied for police vetting. Management is now aware of police vetting requirements and will ask staff for it to be completed where necessary.

Staff members were asked to update CV's. Any new staff CVs received will be read carefully to make sure that there is no relevant information missing. If information is missing the person will be asked to update their C.V.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of police vetting application.

Updated employment records confirming that no police vetting is required for the two adults.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has partly addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 9. However, the required police vetting has not been submitted. Therefore, this non-compliance remains outstanding and will be subject to review upon the services next inspection.

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.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection. The following adult to child ratios were observed:
- Two adults cared for thirteen children aged 3 years 2 months to 4 years.
- An adult on a community employment scheme who cared for the children in a supernumerary capacity was also present.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (j) Medication records to detail any medication administered to children while attending the preschool service was provided. A medication consent form which is completed prior to medication being administered, and a daily medication log to be completed when medication was administered was available. The person in charge advised that no child is currently receiving medication while in attendance.

(k) An accident/incident book was maintained. The records reviewed included the details of any accident/incident, staff and children present, actions taken and signed by staff reporting the accident/incident, to management and the child's parents.

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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

Basic Needs

- The children take in their own snacks and drinks from home. Snack time observed on the day of inspection was unrushed and at a pace suitable to the children's needs. Sandwiches, bagels, crackers, yogurts, cheese strings, fruit purees and chopped fruit was eaten by the children at snack time. Where children had not taken in a drink on the day, an adult provided the additional drinks. The adults were observed to sit with the children at snack time and engage in conversations.
- The children's independence was promoted while using the toilet. The adults were observed to remain close by to assist if needed. Following a hand painting activity an adult supervised the handwashing, ensuring any child that needed help was supported.
- The children's coats were worn at outdoor play times, and aprons worn for individual painting activities. Spare clothing was stored in the preschool room.
- An area of rest contained floor mats and soft cushions, where children could rest if required.
- The atmosphere in the preschool room was warm and welcoming. The children displayed curiosity towards the inspectors and engaged in conversations with them throughout the inspection.
- The children experienced a change of environment during outdoor play time. The adults were observed to take part in "what time is it Mr Wolf" and "Hide n Seek" games in the outdoor area. The children enjoyed the space available and made use of the large area while running, laughing and playing with their friends and the adults.

Supporting Relationships

- Interactions observed throughout the inspection were positive and child focused. The children engaged well with their peers, with any minor disagreements addressed appropriately by staff.
- The children displayed familiarity in their routine. Strong relationships among the adults and children were evident. The adults engaged in conversations relevant to the children's interest. Discussions about going on a boat, the upcoming Winter theme and the penguin painting activity was unrushed with children given time to speak when they wished.
- The staff team were observed to work well together, with transitions throughout the inspection observed calm and smooth.
- Communication with parents is through a variety of conversations upon arrival and pick up times, phone calls and emails.

Physical and Material Environment

- The indoor play environment had designated play areas to include a floor play area with books, sand tray, painting easel, shop play, home corner area, dress up and role play materials. A creative table, small world toys, construction materials, table top toys, jigsaws, cars, trucks and tractors were also available. Additional play materials were stored on shelving within the preschool room.
- Family photos, self-portraits, birthday balloons, autumn leaves and hedgehogs were some of the children's work on display in the preschool room.
- The children have access to two designated outdoor play areas. One area is located directly of the preschool room. This area is secured by high level walls and a covered roof with an artificial grass surface. A large wooden climbing structure with slide, a tent, balls, balance equipment, hoops and wooden tools were provided in this area. The second area located behind the community centre had a soft play surface, a wooden shed, a wooden climbing structure, rocking toys, ride on toys and a planting area. The person in charge explained the children would have access to both areas depending on weather.

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 two outdoor garden areas were secured by high level walls and fencing with locking mechanisms fitted on gates.
- The children were observed to be adequately supervised on the day of the inspection.
- Play materials and resources were maintained in good condition.
- Storage areas remained inaccessible to the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- Fire exits remained unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- Warm running water, hand soap, pedal operated bins and paper towels were provided for handwashing.
- Hand washing was observed in practise throughout the preschool session. Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet, after outdoor and messy play activities and before snack times.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to snack times. Children used individual placemats at snack time.
- The snacks taken in from home were stored in the fridge within the preschool room.
- Cleaning schedules were in place and completed up to date.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Upon the inspectors arrival the main entrance door to the preschool room was not secured to prevent unauthorised access to the premises.
2. Two blind cords in the preschool room were not adequately secured, therefore posing a risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

3. Children's play and creative materials were observed to be stored on shelving in the sanitary area. This poses a risk of cross contamination.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Doors are always locked whenever someone leaves the room. A notice has been placed beside all doors to remind staff to lock them behind them and when someone leaves the room.

Blind cords are now secured to the wall.

Infection Control:

All materials have been removed from the sanitary areas. New storage has been created so that there is no need to store materials in the sanitary areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

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) Written daily attendance records were available for review. Following a review of attendance records, it detailed that each child in attendance on the day of inspection were signed in upon arrival. Records prior to the day of inspection detailed the arrival and collection times for each child.

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) Following review of staff files and the staff roster, it was evident that the registered provider ensured that there was a member of staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) on the premises at all times.

(2) (a) &(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available on the premises and stored in an accessible and conspicuous location, out of the reach of children.

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) A record of fire drills that take place was available. The most recent dated fire drill was recorded on 9th October 2024.

(b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers was dated January 2024, and the maintenance of the smoke alarms was dated November 2024.

(4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the wall throughout the service, which contained details in relation to the procedure 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

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 22 pre-school children attending the service on a sessional basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 27 March 2025.