

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CN048		
Name of Service:	Playaways Creche		
Address of Service:	Foxglove Hill, Rocklands, Cavan, Co. Cavan		
Eircode:	H12 PW81		
Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Clarke		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	12/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM 32
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, 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

Playaways Creche is located in a housing development within the town of Cavan. This service was established in 2004 and provides full day, part- time, sessional childcare and education for children from 0 to 6 years and school aged. The service operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday and caters for a maximum of 51 children per day. There are three care rooms, namely Baby/Toddler room, Pre School Room 1 and Senior Pre School Room.

Staffing

Twelve staff are employed in the service, which includes the registered provider, a deputy manager, a cook and nine childcare staff. There were 10 adults present on the day of inspection and of these 9 were providing direct care to the children, the registered provider was also present.

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 9,11,19,20,21,22,23,24,25&26. 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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*
- (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 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) Twelve staff members are employed in the service, which includes the registered provider who is the manager, deputy manager, and the cook. These files were reviewed.

(a)& (b) Twenty-four references were available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures was available for all staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available for the three staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The eleven staff members who provide direct care to children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 9.32am and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed:

- **Baby/Toddler Room:** there were 10 children aged 6 months to 1 year 11 months attending for full day care, being cared for by 3 staff members.
- **Preschool Room 1:** there were 10 pre-school children aged between 2 years 2 months to 3 years 10 months, of which 9 children were attending on a full day care basis, being cared for by 2 adults.
- **Senior Preschool Room:** there were 15 children aged 3 years 7 months to 5 years 5 months, of which 13 children attended for full day care and 2 children attended parttime care, being cared for by 2 staff members. The deputy manager also assisted in this room.

(8)(a) On the day of inspection, based upon a review of the staff roster and staff attendance times reported to the inspectors at least 2 adults were on the premises at all times.

The registered provider arrived at the service shortly after the inspection commenced and remained in the service to assist in the care rooms where required for the duration of the inspection.

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

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic needs:

- In The Baby/Toddler Room the younger babies were assisted with meals by the staff members and children who were able were encouraged to feed themselves with staff support, where required.
- The children in Senior Pre-school Room and Pre-school Room 2 brought their snacks from home and included sandwiches, crackers, cheese, yogurts, and a variety of fruit.
- The children's water bottles were readily available for the children to take from low level shelves in the care rooms during the day if they were thirsty and these were placed beside the children on their tables at snack and mealtimes. Drinks were taken outside also.
- Nappy changing occurred regularly and staff members were observed engaging in one-to-one interaction with the children when they were changing their nappies. The staff members were observed reminding children that they needed to use the toilet at times and aiding when necessary.
- In the Baby/Toddler Room individual child-led sleep routines were facilitated and all children who required sleep or showed signs of tiredness were promptly facilitated to sleep during the inspection.
- Outdoor play was facilitated for the children on the day of the inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- There was positive adult: child interactions noted, children easily approached the staff members for assistance. Staff members demonstrated kindness and addressed the children in a respectful manner.
- In the Baby/Toddler Room staff sat on the floor playing and singing songs, children were lifted and comforted if they became upset or tired.

- In Senior Pre-school room and Pre-school Room 1 staff assisted children where necessary to complete activities and encouraged and supported children who were able to complete them independently.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) There is a cot room available in the Baby/Toddler room with 4 cots for children under 2 years who require sleep in this room. The Baby/Toddler room also used stackable beds for the children over 2 years of age who required sleep. Within the care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats, and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.

(3)(a) There was a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to the rear of the premises. The area was divided into 2 areas using fencing. The surface areas consisted of grass and some hard surface area. Shelters were available on both sides for children to be protected from rain and on hot days a break from the direct sun.

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 rooms were designated according to the age group of the children using them: Baby/Toddler room and pre-school rooms.

- The playrooms were laid out with uncluttered, clear floor spaces for the children to play safely.
- Children equipment was stored on low level shelves to assist children select and replace items of interest.
- The opportunity for different types of play and learning were available and accessible in all the rooms.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy with a weekly menu available. The dinner was supplied from an outside catering company and heated on the premises. The food provided by the service was nutritious, varied, appropriate for the age of the children and adequate for the length of time the children were in attendance in the service. Morning and afternoon snack was provided by the parents/guardians of the children. Dinner was served from 12 midday and consisted of chicken casserole with vegetables and mash potatoes.

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:

- Safe storage was available for the cleaning agents and equipment used in the service.
- The person in charge ensured that complete and accurate daily records of attendance were kept for all children, adults, and visitors to the service.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured.

Infection Control:

- A supply of cleaning agents stored out of reach of children were available in the service.
- Playrooms, the sleep room, communal areas and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by mechanical ventilation and by natural forms of opening doors and windows.
- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing for children and adults.
- Paper towels were provided in the dispensers in all the sanitary areas used by the children and adults to facilitate hygienic hand drying.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3)(a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors are announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

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 a person had up to date First Aid Responders course and was 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) Records are available to show that fire drills were carried out on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill was on 27th June 2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available on the premises. The firefighting equipment were serviced on the day of inspection 24th November 2022. The smoke alarms were last serviced on the 19th January 2023.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous positions on 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 ensured that the service was adequately insured for 51 children at any one time. The expiry date on the insurance certificate was 27/03/24.