

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CW007		
Name of Service:	Borris Community Playschool Ltd		
Address of Service:	Respond Building, Oak Tree Court, Borris, Carlow		
Eircode:	R95 AK77		
Name of Registered Provider:	Leonora Laffan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	05/05/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry		
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 community service was established in 1999. It is a respond community service. The service is located in a housing estate just outside Borris in south county Carlow. The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged 3 to 6 years of age. The premises is a purpose-built childcare facility. It has two early years rooms, toilets, an office, kitchen, entrance hallway and a large outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were six staff on the premises on the day of inspection including the manager who also works directly with the children. All staff working directly with the early years children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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 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.*
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*
- (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.*
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*
 - (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
 - (c) these Regulations.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) (b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a named person available to deputise as required.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were eight staff employed in the service, including the maintenance person.

(a)

There were nine written and validated references available on file from past employers.

(b)

There were seven written and validated references available on file from reputable sources.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all eight staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for two staff members who had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)(a)

The manager had ensured that all staff were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and training to carry out their duties in the service. There was evidence on file in the service regarding that staff had undertaken in relation to health and safety and infection control in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they had regular staff meetings where they were given appropriate information in relation to any developments in the service.

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)

There was an adequate number of staff always working directly with the children for the duration of the inspection.

On the day of inspection there were 22 children aged from 3 to 6 years in the care of 4 staff. The manager was in the service and available to assist across the rooms if required. There was one student employed under a community employment scheme who was also available to assist the qualified staff who were working directly with the children.

(2)

The manager ensured 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 was satisfied.

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)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together, playing in the outdoor area and story time with the staff in the big room. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, children were observed putting on their own coats, wellies, and hats before they went to the outdoor area.

During activities staff used opportunities to extend children's learning and development. Staff were observed playing with the children in the outdoor area. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care. For example, in the outdoor area staff were observed playing and initiating games with the children who were riding on balance bikes provided by the service.

The materials and equipment available included a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials which were well organised and easily accessible to children. There was a range of equipment and materials available in the outdoor area. There was an outdoor kitchen, picnic tables, a large jungle gym with ladders and a slide and other equipment to support imaginative play. There were ride-on toys provided to facilitate gross motor play. There was a concrete surface for the children to play on the ride on toys, and a large area which was covered in natural grass for the enjoyment of all the children.

There was a sensory garden to the side of the service which contained a path made of different tactile surfaces such as stones, and beads cemented into the path. There were herbs growing which provided pleasant aromas for the children to experience.

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 registered provider had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

General safety:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was made of glass. Staff could see who was seeking to gain access to the service. The openings of the windows were restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices. All radiators were thermostatically controlled. The fire doors were not obstructed. All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children. The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean and in good repair on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were available in the service to document the regular cleaning of the early years rooms and toilet areas. There were fridges available in the service to store the food which was provided by the parents. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

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 was a person trained in first aid for children immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years service.

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

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place in the service on 19 April 2023.

(b) There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was last serviced on 15 March 2023.

(4)
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.