

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR004		
Name of Service:	Sallynoggin Community Preschool Ltd		
Address of Service:	298a Pearse Avenue, Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	A96 AY63		
Name of Registered Provider:	Jocelyn Drummond		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	25/11/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin		
Inspection undertaken by:	O. Quill R. Phillips		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		
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 private childcare facility was established in 2004 and is registered to provide a sessional service including an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 09:30 to 13:00 Monday to Friday for 44 weeks of the year. This service is located in a residential area of Sallynoggin County Dublin and operates from a purpose built single story structure, with one care room, an office, and sanitary facilities. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There are four staff members working in the service, including the registered provider. The registered provider works directly with the children when required.

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 (1)(a), (b) (2)(c) Management and Recruitment,
11 (1)(3) Staffing Levels,

- 15(1) Record of a pre-school child,
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health, welfare and development of child,
- 25 First Aid and
- 26 Fire Safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-school child.

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 registered provider, 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge who could deputise as required.

(1)(b) Both the designated person in charge and deputy were present throughout the inspection.

(2) The registered provider confirmed no new staff were employed since the last inspection on the 17 November 2022. These records were assessed on the previous inspection and were found to be compliant with Regulation 9(2) (a)-(d) and (4).

This inspection included a review of Garda Vetting for all staff employed.

(c) Garda vetting certificates were available from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána for all the staff employed within the service. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The minimum ratio of adults to children for a sessional service was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twelve children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of nine records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record that immunisations were received was recorded.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

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), (b)

The care room in this service has new brightly coloured flooring, and plenty of natural light from an apex gable window. The care room facilitated ease of supervision of the children, who were observed to be engaged fully in child led play. The lay out promoted their choice of materials and toys. There was a library area, arts and crafts, instruments, small world toys, a home corner with a kitchen and cash register. A doll's house and construction corner, all promoting imaginative play. Toys with different materials and textures were also available to the children on low level shelving. Sensory play was facilitated by homemade modelling dough. Suitable low level

chairs and tables were available for meal time and tabletop activities. The children rested intermittently on three low level child size couches.

Healthy eating is promoted in the service. This was evidenced by children having a fruit break, where they discussed fruit and preferences while eating together in a relaxed manner. Staff promoted children's independence by supporting them to prepare the food brought in by the children from home. Water was freely available to the children at all times.

Staff were observed responding to children's needs throughout the inspection. The staff spoke to the children using encouraging phrases and promoted their independence by appointing 'two helpers' who were supported to prepare the fruit snack. The staff were also observed promoting independence with handwashing, before meals and after blowing a nose or using the toilet. Children used the toilet independently. The registered provider communicates with parents via a digital application, face to face and all parents were given a parent handbook.

The children played for a time in the outdoor area. A rubber tile surface was provided and the area was secure with a high wall. There was a climbing frame and slides. A selection of ride on toys, cars scooters and bikes, promoting gross motor development. Low level seating was available, to facilitate a rest from play. The outdoor area was partially covered to facilitate outdoor play throughout the year.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times.

Evidence was provided to demonstrate four staff members all had current FAR training certification.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous place on the premises and was available to the children attending the service at all times.

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 of monthly fire drills was available. The last fire drill was completed on the 07 November 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 06 September 2024 and the Smoke alarm was serviced on the 06 November 2024.
 - (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the premises.