

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY390
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Teacher Pats Playschool
-------------------------	-------------------------

Address of Service:	Mother McAuley Centre, Curlew Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D12 C432
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Griffin
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	16/10/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	13
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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

Teacher Pats Playschool was formerly known as Mother Mc Auley Playgroup and is a community-based service which is located in a residential area of Drimnagh, south Co Dublin. An Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme is offered on a sessional basis to children aged 2-6 years. Care and education are facilitated through a play-based curriculum on a school calendar basis. The is currently registered to operate 9:30am to 12:30pm. The premises consists of one large preschool room with an office space and sanitary accommodation within a multi-purpose community centre. An outdoor play space is available on the premises with natural grass surfacing.

Staffing

The service currently employs 3 adults, not including the registered provider. On the day of inspection 4 adults were present and working in the service including an adult engaged in a community employment scheme. The registered provider was available on the day of inspection within the adjoining community centre.

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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25, 26 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and regulation 16.

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 II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
The service is currently registered to provide sessional care from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The service did not notify the agency of a proposed change in details in relation to the service provision. On the day of inspection, the service was found to have change the service type provided to part-time, operating from 9:00am to 14:00pm. Staff members stated this change had been in operation since the 16th September 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A change of circumstances form was completed following the inspection and forwarded to Tusla.
Any future changes will be submitted to Tusla prior to any changes in circumstances.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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.

Compliance Information

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of all 4 adults working in the service. The following records were available for the 4 adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from 2 sources for each of the adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau for the 4 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable, international police vetting was not required.

(3) The assessment of regulation 9(3) was limited to 2 staff members that commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection on the 15th June 2024. Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified under Regulation 9(2) had been carried out prior to 2 of the adults commencing employment in the service.

- (4) There was evidence that 3 of the adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent. One adult did not require a qualification.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 19 children present in the service being supervised by 4 adults during the 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)-(i)

A sample of documentation was reviewed for 12 of the children currently enrolled to attend the service by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to points (a) to (g), and (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

Four of the records reviewed did not contain details of immunisations received by the child, as required above under 15(1)(h).

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

All records have been reviewed and all parents/guardians have asked to complete relevant immunisation records. On receipt of Children's records, the immunisation form will be completed before the child will be offered a place in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (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

- (1)
- (h) Documentation reviewed evidenced that children’s attendance was being accurately recorded in each care room.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service and was reflective of the staff members present throughout the inspection.
 - (j) Staff members stated that medication is not routinely administered to children in the service. Staff members detailed the procedures in place the requirement arise for medication to be administered and had appropriate documentation to record this if needed.
 - (k) Records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained all of the necessary details.

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-

(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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection.

The routine of the service was child led, and children were visibly content and happy in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. Throughout the morning, children moved freely around the room engaged in a wide range of activities. Staff supported children in their play, sitting with them and involving themselves when invited by a child or by using prompts to extend play and learning.

Adults communicated well with the children and used warm tones and gentle, respectful language during all interactions which reflected in the relaxed atmosphere of the service. The service operated a rolling snack time throughout the morning. Children could choose when they would like to take their lunches or drinks out to eat at the table as the pleased. Staff sat with children engaged in conversation when they ate and dressed the table with flowers and plates creating a homely atmosphere.

Children were encouraged to be independent in cleaning up after activities and doing jobs in the classroom. Staff managed disputes between children in a calm manner promoting conflict resolution, and comforted children promptly if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a robust knowledge of children's individual care needs during discussions with the inspector and were regularly observed taking the time to have personal one on one conversations with the children.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. One staff member working in the service did not have a Garda Vetting disclosure which was dated within the last 3 years.

Infection Control:

2. One of the pedal operated bins in the care room was broken. Children were observed repeatedly handling this bin lid to dispose of rubbish and nasal tissues after use. This posed a risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

All Garda vetting has been updated and completed. A check on all Garda vetting will be carried out before a new sessional year to ensure all vetting is updated and completed.

Infection Control:

Replaced broken bin. All bins will be checked weekly for defects and replaced immediately.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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)
An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children during the inspection.
- (2)
(a)(b)
A suitably equipped first aid box was observed to be immediately accessible to the children within the service and was stored in a conspicuous location on the day of inspection.

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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in September 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in March 2024.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
- There was no record available to show that the fire alarm system in place had been regularly serviced as required. Records reviewed evidenced that the alarm system had not been serviced since the 13th July 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service informed the fire and safety company of the delay in servicing, this was rectified with an inspection the following day. To prevent this non-compliance, the service are booked in with the fire and safety company for next year.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the preschool service was adequately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children in attendance.