

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY019			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ballinderreen Community Childcare & Education Centre			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballinderreen, Kilcolgan, Ballinderreen, Co. Galway			
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 P3Y5			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	David Hardiman			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/09/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	32	PM	24

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor) Merlin Park, Galway
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F . Kelly
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This service opened in 2002. This service operates a full day care early years' service for children aged from 6 months to 6 years. A service for school aged children is also provided. The service operates from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 65 children.

### Staffing

The manager of the service was the designated person in charge and was present throughout the inspection. There were 9 adults employed in the service, the registered provider does not work on the premises in a daily basis

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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*

*(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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The service manager was the designated person in charge and the named person who was able to deputise as required were on the premises on the day of inspection.
- It was confirmed that there were 9 members of staff employed in the early years' service, which included the registered provider.
- These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were two written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for all adults working in the service.
- (b) There were written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for 1 adult working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police vetting was available for 5 staff that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 months.
- (4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*

*(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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the morning of inspection, there were 32 pre-school children, attending the service. On the afternoon on day of inspection, there were 24 pre-school children attending the service.

(2) At 10.15 am on the morning of the inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

Toddler room there were 2 adults working with 7 children aged less than 24 months .

ECCE 1 room, there were 2 adults working with 12 children.

ECCE 2 room , there were 2 staff working with 13 children.

At 13:00pm on the afternoon of the inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

Toddler room there were 2 adults working with 7 children aged less than 24 months .

ECCE 1 room, there were 2 adults working with 10 children.

ECCE 2 room , there were 2 staff working with 7 children.

(8)(a)

On review of the staff roster and speaking with the service manager ,it was confirmed that two adults were on the premises during the operational hours of the service.

## 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

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion children needed a reminder from staff.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet and after outdoor playtime.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a social event, one group of the older children went to the dining room for their lunch and the younger children ate their snacks and lunch in the playroom.

In the ECCE 2 playroom, the staff member portioned out the lunch and child handed out the plates to each child, it was planned that the children will be able to self-serve their own lunch in the due course. When each child had their lunch, the bowls of food were placed in the centre of the table and children could serve themselves a second portion if they wished.

- Staff members were observed talking, comforting and encouraging the children throughout the inspection. This was observed in the Toddler room, the few young children wanted to wrap a doll in a blanket, the staff member carefully showed the children how to do it and encouraged the children to put the blanket on the floor and wrap the doll in the blanket themselves. When the children completed the tasks, the staff praised and encouraged the children and the young children repeated this during the play activity.

### 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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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, or

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The indoor play areas were designed and organised to accommodate the children’s varying interest and developmental needs. Materials and equipment were displayed so that they were visible and easily accessible by the children. There were different interest areas provided where equipment and toys of similar use were arranged together.

The playrooms had open shelf units ,with a selection of jigsaws and puzzles and various toys suitable for the age and ability of the children attending.

The children in the EECE 2 were observed engaging in a wide selection of activities such as

- Playing with home-made playdough, using opened ended play with glitter and various shapes.
- Art area, 3 pictures were displayed and the children could paint the picture on display or pint what the wished, the children’s finished paintings were on display.
- Fine motor skills activities such as peg play where children played with tubs of small pegs, sorted them by colours , making patterns and threaded them on strings .
- Home corner, shop area, hairdressing table, the children were observed playing with play food in particular and large birthday cake that was new to this area and the children , where the children acted out real life situations and experiences.

- Mezzanine Area, the relaxation area was located upstairs in this area, only 4 children were permitted in this area at a time and the children monitored the number and their waited at the bottom of the stairs until they were permitted to go upstairs.
- Children were observed taking puzzles from various shelving unit , bring them to a nearby table , playing with them and without any prompts from the staff bring them back to where they got them.

All of the activities observed during the inspection were child centred and the staff present facilitated the play rather than lead the activity.

- (b) The children under 2 years of age were put down to sleep in the cot room, on the day of inspection 5 children were put down to sleep in standard cots in this room. A staff member stayed in the room at all times while children slept. Every 10 minutes, the staff member recorded the temperature of the room, colour and position of the child as they slept.

The children aged over 2 years slept on stackable beds in a playroom. This room had stackable beds , each child had an allocated bed with sheets and a small blanket.

The blinds were closed, the lighting was reduced, making this room conducive to sleep.

Children not requiring sleep were accommodated in another playroom or could go outside to play. Staff provide for each child's need for sleep, rest and relaxation. The rest and sleep facilities and equipment provided by the service were suitable for the age the development stage and the individual needs of the children using the service.

- (3)(a) The outdoor play areas adjacent to the playrooms were suitable, safe and secure to prevent a child from gaining unsupervised access to dangers and to prevent unauthorised access to the outdoor area. The outdoor area was divided into separate areas. A large garden was available to the children at the side of the building , with various experiences for the children to play in and explore.