

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY068			
Name of Service:	Cleggan Claddaghduff Community Playgroup			
Address of Service:	Cleggan Community Centre, Cleggan, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H71 XN77			
Name of Registered Provider:	Jane Gorham			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	20/03/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	0
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.			
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.			
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
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Description of service

This community service operates from 09:30 am to 12:30 pm, Monday to Friday and caters for pre-school children aged 2 – 6 years of age on a sessional basis. The service is in Renvyle, which is in a rural part of west Galway. The sessional service operates out of a purpose-built service which consists of a playroom, sensory playroom, kitchen, office and sanitary accommodation. The service has an outdoor area to the rear of the service and children have access to outdoor play in a secured outdoor play area. Private parking is provided at the side of the premises.

Staffing

There are 3 adults working in the service which includes the register provider. The adults working directly with the children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of a level 5 in Early Childhood Education.

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.

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 registered provider was the named designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 4 written, validated references from past employers available in respect of the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 2 validated references on file in respect of the 3 adults were from a source other than the previous past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 3 adults members.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that no adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years and therefore did not require police vetting.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had a major award of a minimum of FETAC level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained, there were 2 adults working in the service with 9 pre-school children 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.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a), (b), (c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h) and (i).

A sample of 10 children’s records were reviewed.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The 4 random records of children contain the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child’s parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.
- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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

19(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view the snacks and meals were appropriate and the foods observed on the day of inspection. The service had a rolling snack so children could decide when they wanted to eat.

- The snacks were supplied by the parents were healthy and nutritious and consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed. Perishable items were stored in the service fridge.
- Crockery and plates were offered, used during children's snack times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- All children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- The children self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g., to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue and after messy play.
- In the playroom the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch in designated cosy area.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement. Children are shown positive strategies by adults to self-regulate as part of their development.
- There was an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service.
- The outdoor area was upgraded, and the play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The adults were observed, to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with their peers and with the adults.
- A key worker system was in operation for each individual child to support them with their development and interactions with other children. The service took a holistic approach to each child's development.
- The children were supported to interact appropriately with their peers and were confident and comfortable in their environment.
- A little helper system was in place to support children in taking the lead and encourage children to communicated with other children and the adults.

- Visual displays were used to make transitions easy for children from one activity to the next.
- The adults were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them and responded to their requests. The adults interacted in a positive way with the children e.g., they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child.
- The adults were observed helping children find solutions, supporting them and talking to children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling and commentating, extending a child's activities and initiating games and activities.
- The parents and guardians were offered information at drop off / collection and via a multimedia group application and by email or phone calls if required.
- The children's programme of activity and their artwork was on display in the entrance holiday.

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 were 2 adults trained in first aid responder for children and were available to the children attending the pre-school service and on the roster.

(2)(a) There was 1 first aid box with the content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position in the main playroom.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.