

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY070
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Name of Service:	Clifden Community Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Boys Old School, Low Road, Clifden, Co. Galway.
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Eircode:	H71 TW53
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Name of Registered Provider:	Thérèse Boulger
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	31 January 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly
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 Sessional service is located in a town of Clifden, Co Galway. This community service is located in the Old Boy's school. The service runs 2 sessions daily from 9:00am to 12:00pm and an afternoon session from 12:30pm to 3:30pm. The service also has an outdoor play area at the rear of the building

Staffing

There were 3 adults present on the day of inspection which included the registered provider.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19 and 28;

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and regulation 19.

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 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.*

(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.*

*92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
(c) these Regulations.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was 1 named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises.
- Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there was 1 new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. (08/10/2020)
- This file was reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (b) Not applicable, as all references on files were supplied by recent employers.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosures was not required as no adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 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.*
- (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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (3) The following care room was in operation.
The morning session, at 10:00 ,there were 3 adults caring for 17 Pre-school children.

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

The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service.

- (1) The records contained all the appropriate information required to support the care provided by the service to each child.

A sample of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 17 children attending the service, a total of 4 records were reviewed, all 4 records contained the necessary elements (a-i) as outlined above.

- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends 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

Basis Needs:

- Children had free movement between the outdoor play area and an indoor setting, when children wanted to play outside, they were encouraged to put on their own coats themselves.
During the session, 5 children wanted to engage in water play in the outdoor play area, they were they were able to put on their outdoor gear and outdoor boots themselves. They happily played with water tubes and water containers for a period of time. The staff where available to assist and help the children change out of their wet gear, but they encouraged the children to do themselves.
- Children ate their snack and lunch times not as a designated time but when they felt hungry. When the children wanted to have their lunch, they washed their hands in a low-level sink in the playroom and they retrieved their lunch bags from the fridge and could sit at a dedicated lunch table. One staff member stayed in the indoor playroom, this staff member maintained a detailed list of when the children ate their lunch, used the toilets and other observations that they witnessed throughout session. This staff member was observed sitting with the children and speaking and positively engaging with the children while they ate their lunch.

- Children’s artwork was displayed around the playroom and each child had a scrapbook which was a photographic display of the various activities that the children had engaged in, for example rolling balls in the outdoor play area, mark making and doing science experiments.

Physical and Material Environment .

- The children used the soft seating area on numerous occasions throughout the session, A group of boys were observed playing, relaxing and talking while lying down on soft cushions in this area.
- Toys and play equipment were stored in plastic box boxes which had a picture of the content on the front, this enables the children to know where things were stored. When the children were tidying up after each activity they knew where to return the toys and puzzles to.
- An area of the playroom was dedicated to role-playing, which included a home area. Children were observed playing in this section , with a Doctor/Medical bag, they role played a scenario when a patient went to visit three doctors. The type of play observed during the session was predominantly child lead, children very easily moved from one play activity to the next.
- The children finished the session by describing “ how they had felt today”, they could choose between emoji faces of happy, excited, angry or surprised.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A current insurance certificate was available with an expiry date of 27/03/2023. The registered provider had adequate insurance cover for 22 pre-school children per session.