

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015GY097 | | |
| Name of Service: | Fundamental Childcare | | |
| Address of Service: | Lios Na Si, Bridge Road, Portumna, Co. Galway | | |
| Eircode: | H53 R6H0 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Marie Murray | | |
| Service type: | Full Day | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 14/01/2025 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 52 | PM 46 |
| 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 | | |

Description of service

This service opened in Sept 2007 and operates a full day care early years service for children aged from 3 months to 12 years. The service operates from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 60 children. The service is located in a residential area in the town of Portumna in Co. Galway. There were five playrooms, a designated sleep room and a kitchen area. There was an outdoor play area located to the side and rear of the premises. This service is also registered for school aged children.

Staffing

There are 14 staff working in the service which included the registered provider and 1 ancillary staff.

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 reoccurring. 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 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 designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspections, the registered provider was in charge and there was also a named person who could deputise.
- (2)(4) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the register provider it was confirmed that there were no new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following child care rooms were in operation.

- (2) Baby Room/wobbler room, there were 2 adults caring for 9 children.
- Toddler room, there was 1 adult working with 4 children.
- Junior ECCE playroom, there was 1 adult working with 11 children.
- Junior ECCE 1 room, there was 1 adult working with 8 children.
- Senior ECCE 2 room, there were 2 adults working with 20 children.

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 number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs.

- Children's drinks were available to the children throughout the day, the drinks were located on a low-level shelf in the playrooms. Older children had access to their drinks throughout the session without having to ask staff members to assist them.
- Children washed their hands before snack time and after outdoor play.
- Children had an opportunity to move freely both indoors and outdoors. Children had access to the outdoor space and the playroom located in the outdoor area on a daily basis and the children were observed happily playing in the outdoor space on the day of inspection. The children appeared happy and content exploring the different areas of the space, this was evident from the laughter while playing and running around the area.
- Children were observed to have individual place mats, with their photographs and name displayed on them. Children in the junior ECCE rooms were observed during their snack time, were given enough time to finish their food and drinks, when they were finished, they put their lunch boxes back into their bag and wiped down their mats with a cloth and spray. They returned their mats to

the shelf and moved to another area of the room to play or read a story book, while they waited for all the rest of the children to finish. The children did not have to be prompted by staff to do this task but they confidentially completed these tasks on their own.

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. The children's sanitary areas were conveniently located adjacent to the playrooms. The staff were heard giving children little prompts when they picked up cues from the children that they may need to use the toilet.
- There were a range of soft seating which consisted of low-level child sized sofas and cushions. They were available in all of the playrooms, for the children to sit and relax. Stackable beds were used for children aged over two years of age, to sleep and relax.
- Staff provided for each child's comfort and their individual need for sleep. Children were put down to sleep when they needed sleep and not just at a set time each day.
- There was a separate sleep room for children aged less than 2 years of age, the temperature of this room when it was in use at 13:30pm was 19.4°C which is within the recommended temperatures of between 16°C and 20 °C.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) Each child attending the service was checked in and out each day by a relevant staff member and a record of same was recorded and easily accessible to each staff member. On the day of inspection an attendance record/book was present in each playroom and in the entrance lobby for children attending the upstairs playrooms.

(3)(a)(b) A register was maintained for persons other than those listed above that entered the premises and was maintained and available for inspection by authorised persons.