

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY099		
Name of Service:	Glasan Creche		
Address of Service:	Glasan, Ballybane Road, Galway, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 E243		
Name of Registered Provider:	Phyllis Reddington		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	03/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM 51
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 private operated service opened in 2012 and offers a full day care and part time care provision from 07.45hrs to 18.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes are also offered. The service also offers a school age children service. This purpose-built premises is located in the student village of Glasan, Ballybane in Galway city. The service has 7 playrooms and a number of well-equipped outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were 22 adults working in the service and of these 19 were working directly with the children. On the day of inspection, the register provider and the service manager facilitated the inspection.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19, Health, welfare and development of child.

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 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 were 2 named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the service manager and the registered provider were on the premises and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 26 members of staff employed in the service, which included the registered provider, HR manager, childcare staff and 2 kitchen staff.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 45 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There were 7 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 26 staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 12 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 22 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least 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 day, there were 60 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 51 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2) Baby room(8 months to 14 months) there were 2 adults caring for 6 infants.

Wobbler room(1 year to 2 years) there were 2 adults caring for 9 children.

Toddler room 1 (2 to 3years), there was 1 adult caring for 4 children.

Toddler room 2 (over 2 years of age), there was 1 adult caring for 6 children.

Playschool room(2 to 3 years), there were 3 adults caring for 16 children.

Montessori room(£ to 5 years), there were 2 adults caring for 19 children.

(8)(a) The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times 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:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support children with special diets. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals and snacks on the day of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The dinner on the day consisted of pasta, pork and vegetables in a tomato-based sauce. In the Toddlers 1 playroom ,the children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and 3 of the children asked the staff member for second helpings of the dinner.
- Older children could access the toilets on their own or they asked the staff member for assistance.
- The children had access to low level hand washing sinks in all of the playrooms, so the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available. This was observed on the day when children were seen going to the hand washing sink prior to mealtime without any prompt to do so from the staff members present.
- Soft seating was available in all of the playrooms, children were observed using these areas after snacks time while were waiting for the rest of the children to finish lunch and on occasions during the inspection. All of the areas were inviting and had activities suitable for the children to rest and relax.
- All of the children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on several occasions throughout the inspection. The younger children including the non-walkers got an opportunity to use the covered sheltered play areas, which was accessed directly from 5 of the 6 playrooms. The children spent a large proportion of the session in the outdoor area. The space was designed that children could decide if they wanted to go indoor as well, and this was facilitated as the staff could supervise both areas due the proximity of the outdoor space to the playrooms.

Supporting relationships :

- The atmosphere between the children and the adults was calm and unhurried throughout the inspection.
- Staff provided parents with the opportunity to share information about the children's experiences , a daily record was sent home each day for all the children and this was done via an online software application . The parents of the older children were observed collecting their children from the playroom at the front of the building, where they got an opportunity to see their child in their play environment and speak directly to the staff members on a daily basis.
- Adults sat at the tables, on the floor with the children when helping with jigsaws and various other play activities. The level of interaction and positive engagement of the children was positive.