

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY123		
Name of Service:	Kinvara Community Children's Centre		
Address of Service:	Kinvara Community Children's Centre, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 YO97		
Name of Registered Provider:	Ian Walsh		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	25/03/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	46	PM 40
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 and S Meehan		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.		

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 purpose-built community childcare service was opened in 2008. The service is located in the east side of Galway city. It comprises of six playrooms and an outdoor play area to the side and front of the building. It offers a full day care, part time and sessional childcare service programme from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged from birth to five years of age. The service also caters for school aged children

Staffing

There are a total of 25 staff employed in the service, which include the service manager and two ancillary staff members. There was 13 staff members in attendance on the day of inspection. The registered provider also works in the service.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 and 11 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) within this report.

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 inspectors wish 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) During the period of inspection, the manager was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- It was confirmed that there were 25 members of staff employed in the service.
- All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 44 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.
- (b) There were 6 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 25 staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 7 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) There were 23 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 46 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 40 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2)

Baby room(8 months to 12 months) there was 1 adult caring for 3 infants.

Junior room(1 year to 2 years) there were 2 adults caring for 7 children.

Senior room (2 to 3years), there were 3 adults caring for 14 children.

Playschool room(2yrs 8 months to 5years), there were 2 adults caring for 12 children.

Edu care room 2(ECCE), there were 2 adults caring for 10 children.

(8) 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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the service collaborates with parents to support healthy eating within the service. Children ate their lunches and snacks in their playrooms. The service had a cook and the home cooked meals on the days of inspection appeared appetising and healthy. The morning snack consisted of fruit and crackers, dinner was spaghetti bolognese, afternoon snack was yogurt and homemade cake with an evening meal at 3.45pm which was scones and sandwiches. The younger children were encouraged by the staff member to self-feed and the staff sat nearby and offered assistance when required. The children were not rushed and when they were finished, they had their hands and faces cleaned and could move around the room and play and wait until all of the children were finished.
- 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 the children's sanitary areas and in 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 and also after meal time.
- Soft seating was available in all of the playroom; children were observed using these areas after snacks times while were waiting for the rest of the children to finish lunch and on other occasions during the inspection. All of the areas were inviting and had activities suitable for the children to rest and relax. Staff working with the younger children were observed sitting on the floor with the young children playing and comforting them.
- The children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area on numerous occasions throughout the day.

- The children aged between 1 and 2 years of age were put down to sleep in their dedicated cot room, which was adjacent to their playroom. On the day of inspection, a staff member stayed with the children until they were settled and then a staff member physically checked the children every 10 minutes and 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. A staff member stayed in the room with the children as they slept.

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 parent had instant access to information in relation to the activities of the children, such as what they ate and when they slept or rested.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs.

1. In the nappy changing area, there were no dividers between the nappy changing units to ensure that each child's dignity was respected at nappy changing. This nappy changing unit is used by the Nursery and the Toddler room.
2. A baby under the age of 12 months in Nursery playroom was observed asleep on a mat on the floor of the nursery. It is acknowledged that the baby was just settling into the creche but this practice was in variance to the service safe sleep policy that was available for inspection. Which stated that all children under the age of 2 years will be put down to sleep in a standard cot.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. We are awaiting to install partitions in the nappy changing area, in the interim, only one child will be changed at a time to ensure the dignity of the child is respected.
2. The baby is sleeping in a standard cot in the dedicated sleep room, all staff and parents are made aware of the service's safe sleep policy.

Summary Comment

The actions were reviewed and the non-compliances identified under regulation 19 have been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Powdered infant formula for the young children in the Nursery room was prepared on the premises by the staff and not prepared in accordance with the Food Safety Authority best practice guidance.

Fire Safety:

2. The corridor leading to the emergency exit was used for storage, four open storage units which contained children's coats and bags lined the fire exit corridor which posed a risk in the event of a fire.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Parents are informed of current guidelines re formula within the setting and will send in freshly prepared, chilled bottles each day and bottles are sent home each evening.

Fire Safety:

2. The corridor was cleared of all storage units and will no longer be used for storage.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the letter sent to the parents and a photograph of the cleared corridor was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the actions submitted were reviewed and the non-compliances identified under regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.