

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(s) of Inspection:	18/05/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>70</td> <td>PM</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </table>	AM	70	PM	50
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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 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
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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 27 staff employed in the service, which include the service manager, three school aged staff members and two other ancillary staff members. There was 20 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, and 19. However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed risk was identified under Regulation 9, 20 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, manager, 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 27 members of staff employed in the service.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 47 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 27 staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 11 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 17 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) There were five adults working directly with children that could not provide evidence that they had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
- It was acknowledged that the three staff were currently enrolled in childcare courses.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4) There are two staff who have applied for recognition for their qualifications and are awaiting a response. Two staff members are currently working in the afterschool service and one staff member is currently on leave, when they return to work, they will have acquired a qualification in Child Care and Education.

Summary Comment

The non compliances identified under this regulation remains non-compliant as evidence that each staff member has a childcare qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework remains outstanding.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).

(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 70 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 50 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 14 months) there was 1 adult caring for 3 infants.

Junior room(1 year to 2 years) there were 3 adults caring for 11 children.

Senior room (2 to 3years), there were 4 adults caring for 12 children.

Playroom(2yrs 8 mts to 5years), there were 3 adults caring for 17 children.

Educare room 1 (ECCE), there were 2 adults caring for 14 children.

Educare room 2(ECCE), there were 2 adults caring for 13 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

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

BASIS 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 dedicated cook and the home cooked meals and snacks on the day of inspection appeared appetising and healthy.
- 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 some of the playrooms, so the children could wash their hands without adult assistance. Soap, paper towels and tissues were also available.
- 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 numerous occasions during the inspection.
- All of the children in the service got an opportunity to use the outdoor play area during the inspection. The younger children including the non-walkers got an opportunity to use the covered sheltered play areas, which was accessed directly from all 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 with the younger children. The parents of the older children were observed collecting their children from the upstairs playrooms, 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.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) The service had 2 dedicated sleep rooms;

1. The toddler sleep room had 1 cot mattress that was not suitable, as it not maintained in good condition. It was not covered in a waterproof material and had exposed foam present, making it difficult to effectively clean it.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The mattress was replaced immediately and a regular check on all sleep equipment will take place to ensure all sleep cots and mattresses are maintained to a high quality.

Summary Comment

The non compliances identified under this regulation 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

General Safety:

1. A large area of the wall in the front hallway had cracked plaster and peeling paint, which make effective cleaning of the area difficult.
2. A number of areas in the playrooms had peeling paint on both the walls and the timber work.

Fire Safety.

3. 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.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective & Preventive Action

- 1,2. Painting and maintenance work will take place during the summer period and in the future safety check/audit will identify areas that need attention.
3. New areas for storage will be in place during the summer period.

Summary Comment

While it is acknowledged that works to address the non-compliances identified will take place, evidence to support these actions has not been submitted. The regulatory requirement remains outstanding.