

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY127
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Name of Service:	Lisheenkyle Community Preschool
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Address of Service:	Lisheenkyle N.S., Oranmore, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H65 F678
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Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer McDonnell
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	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

Lisheenkyle Community Playgroup opened in 2006. The service is located in Lisheenkyle National School, Oranmore, Co Galway. The service consists of 1 large playroom and two children’s sanitary areas. The service also has access to an indoor hall and a large extensive outdoor secured area to the rear of the building. The childcare service provides sessional care to pre-school children. The pre-school service operates from 9.0am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Staffing

There are 4 childcare staff working in the service . The registered provider does not work in the service on a daily basis.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities.

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 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 inspections, the manager was in charge and there was also a named person who could deputise.
- Following a review of the service files and discussion with the manager, it was confirmed that there 4 members of staff employed in the service and a registered provider that does not work in the service on a daily basis.
- These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 6 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.
- (b) There was 4 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the 4 adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, as Police vetting was not required as no adult working in the service had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to level 8 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) On the day of inspection there were 4 adults working directly with 16 pre-school children. At all times during the period of inspection, the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.
- (3) On review of the attendance sheet and staff roster it was evident that the registered provider ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.

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,*

Compliance Information

Supporting relationships around children

- The service supports children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with the adults working in the service. This was evident on the day when staff were observed talking, listening to the children while they sat with the children as they all ate their lunch together.
- The service works with and respects the values and interest of the parents. On the day of inspection, a parent was visiting the school and preschool. This parent had recently won with a local sports team and was showing the local children the newly acclaimed cup. This created great excitement and the children were dressed in their local team colours and were proud of the local team.

- A strong sense of team work was evident in the setting, the staff present had worked together for a number of years and had a great understanding of what each person's strength were, e.g. 1 staff enjoyed arts and crafts ,while another staff members enjoyed sports and physical activities. The staff shared the activities based on these interests.
- The children were encouraged to manage their behaviour , this was achieved by assigning a group leader each day. This role came with a range of responsibilities such as handing out the children's lunches, can decide what activities the children can do and also responsible for managing minor issues between the children, e.g. could introduce a timer if children had an issue with sharing a toy.
- When a care plan was required ,the service ensured that the plan was developed in partnership with the parents and the current developmental needs of the child and the other agencies if applicable.
- The service supports the transitions of children into the service and also the transition of children from the service. The children move into the adjoining national school each year and this transition was well planned and the children were introduced to the teachers and the school over a period of time. The children are invited to events in the national school throughout the year, so there are familiar with the teachers and the building ,thus making the move to Primary school a little easier. On the day, the preschool children were invited to attend the rehearsal of the Christmas play that was taking part in the school hall. The preschool children sat and appeared happy and content while watching it, this was evident by the laughter and the smiles of the preschool children.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) Each children attending the service is checked in and out by relevant staff member . The service uses an attendance book where each staff member signs in and out each child and a record of same is saved each year. The attendance sheet was located in the front lobby, where the children arrived each morning.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*
- (a) *is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
 - (b) *is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider has ensured that the service has an adequate number of staff trained in First Aid for children . The number of staff with First Aid Responder training depended on number and the needs of children.
- (2)(a)(b) The first aid box was stored in a cupboard in the playroom within easy access and was regularly checked to ensure it was fully stocked.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) *any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) *the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) *A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The date of the last fire drill was recorded as the 26/10/2024.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm in the premises. The date of the last annual service was September 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the events of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the playroom and in the main entrance hall.