

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015GY165

**Name of Service:** Muddy Puddles Preschool

**Address of Service:** Lackagh Heritage Centre, Lackagh, Turloughmore, Athenry, Co. Galway

**Eircode:** H65 H578

**Name of Registered Provider:** Blaithin MacDermott

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 02/06/2023

|                                   |    |    |    |     |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 24 | PM | No. |
|                                   |    |    |    |     |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Quality Assurance Directorate,<br>Child and Family Agency,<br>Clinical & Administration Building,<br>Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | F Kelly   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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

The service is located in Lackagh village, Turloughmore in Co Galway. The service operates a sessional service for pre-school children aged between 2 to 6 years; from 08.50hrs to 12.20hrs. The service consists of 2 playrooms. An outdoor play area was located in the areas between the 2 playrooms. The service can cater for up to 37 pre-school children at any one time.

### Staffing

The registered provider was on the premise on the day of the inspection. A total of 5 adults work in the pre-school children.

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11 and 19. 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

#### 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 inspection, the registered provider was on the premises during the inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was not required as the adult working in the service that had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

### 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

(3)

At 10 .20 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

Playroom 1, there were 3 adults working with 13 preschools children.

Playroom 2, there were 2 adults working with 11 preschool 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 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

##### **BASIC NEEDS:**

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion some children needed a reminder from staff.

- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet and after outdoor playtime.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a social event, the children ate their snacks in the outdoor play area , under a shelter on low level tables and chairs .The staff sat with the children and ate their own lunch, speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children.
- Children got the opportunity to move freely between the various areas of the outdoor play area during the period of the inspection. The children got an opportunity to play in the outdoor area each day. They finished the session by having circle time in the indoor playroom, the children sang songs and rhymes .
- The staff were observed to use positive approaches and praise when for speaking to the children.

### **OUTDOOR PLAY AREA**

- The outdoor play area has a large selection of areas to explore and such as slides, sand pit, timber houses and shelters, constructive area, tunnels .The area also has a range of toys and equipment that can be used in the outdoor area.
- There was also concrete path area that the children could for range of ride on toys that was available to them. The children also had an area where they sowed spring bulbs ,they were on display on an outdoor planting area where the children could view their progress.
- There was a sheltered area that the children used for a range of tabletop activities, such as arts and crafts, imaginative and role playing (shop and home corner). On the day of inspection, the group of children were observed area, playing in the outdoor area for a long period of time.

### **INDOOR PLAY AREA**

- The play area was divided into 2 separate playrooms offering different experiences for the children. The playrooms were bright and well laid out with a variety of distinct interest areas. Wall spaces were effectively used to display photographs of the children and their families, art works and posters relating to the current curricular plan.
- All of the play and educational resources were accessible to children on open shelving at their height. The children were observed on various occasion taking toys and puzzles off the shelves playing with them and before playing with a different toy or puzzle they returned the first toy to where they got it with any prompts or direction from the staff members.