

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY219			
Name of Service:	Rosebuds Pre-School			
Address of Service:	Scoil Rois, Rosary Lane, Taylors Hill, Co. Galway.			
Eircode:	H91 W2V9			
Name of Registered Provider:	Alexandra Monaghan			
Service type:	Part Time			
Date of Inspection:	09/10/2023			
No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	17
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Co. Galway.			
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Nic Dhonnacha			
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

Rosebuds Preschool is located on the grounds of Scoil Róis, in Galway city. The pre-school offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and sessional care programme from 8.50hrs to 11.50hrs and a part-time service until 13.30hrs, Monday to Friday. On the day of inspection, there were 33 children present in the morning and 17 children in the afternoon, all aged between 3 and 6 years of age. A child centred play-based curriculum focusing on emerging interests is offered. The preschool service operates from a pre-fabrication unit, located to the back of the National School. The preschool consists of 2 playrooms namely Playroom 1 and Playroom 2, a kitchenette, entrance hall, adjacent lobby, and children's sanitary areas. Quiet rest areas were available for the children in each playroom. The preschool service has open access to the designated outdoor play area with all-weather sheltered areas included.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named deputy person in charge. On the day of inspection there were six staff (excluding the registered provider) working and caring for the children in the service. Nine staff work in the service and hold 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. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education. On the day of inspection, the registered provider was supernumerary, while six staff members were on the premises working with and caring for the 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 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, 11,19,23,25,26 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 19 and 25. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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.

Additional Information

10/10/2023:

An immediate action notice was issued to the service by the Inspection Registration Manager / Early Years Inspector as a person trained in current first aid for children was not at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

11/10/2023:

A response from the registered provider outlined two people in the service (the registered provider included) will be trained in first aid for children, the 3-day course commencing on 24/10/2023, 25/10/2023 and will be completed by 26/10/2023.

12/10/2023

As the response from the registered provider did not clarify if a person trained in first aid would be available to the children at all times during the operation of the service, further clarification was requested from the registered provider.

The registered provider responded that an alternative person in the national school would be available to the children in the service at all times until the two pre-school staff have completed their training for the service.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge (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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The manager was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.

(2)(a)&(b) Eighteen validated references on file in respect of the nine staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the nine staff members.

(d) One staff member had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years therefore required police vetting.

(4) Nine staff working directly with the pre-school children had evidence of a childcare qualification to 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.

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) The staff roster reviewed indicated an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. The adult / child ratio was correct and maintained on the inspection day.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection.

On the morning of the inspection, at 10.20hrs, there were 33 pre-school children present with six adults working directly, caring for the children.

At 13.00hrs, there were 17 preschool children present, with three adults, working directly, caring, and supervising them.

The manager assisted with childcare relief, administration part of the inspection and with food preparation, cooking and serving of the meals and snacks in the service.

The registered provider arrived later in the day and assisted with the remaining administration part of the inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were always 2 staff on the premises while the pre-school was operating.

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-

(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

(1) (a)(b)

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and a healthy eating policy was available on request to review. The children ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians at rolling snack times and

the main meal for the children attending on a part time basis was served in Playroom 1 after 13.00hrs. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be independent while they had free play, tabletop activities, pretend play, artwork, and imaginative play.
- Seven children from the Playroom 1, Playroom 2, wore nappies and had their nappies changed on a regular basis, in a timely manner, in a designated nappy changing area.
- The children had unrestricted access to the four toilets and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills. Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.
- The children had the freedom of movement within their respective playroom. Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. All the older children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors. The children spent most of their time in the outdoor play areas,
- There was a cosy area within each of the playrooms with child sized couches provided which could be adapted as a rest area for the children to rest or opt out of activities if they so wished.

Supporting Relationships

- The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by having a key person for each child, and listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language.
- The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with siblings, peers, and other children, by providing opportunities for small and large group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging.
- The children from Playroom 1 and Playroom 2 were observed at circle time listening to stories, and playing tabletop activities, painting, and gluing leaves to paper for autumn themes. The children were observed playing in the playhouse, running, chasing, playing ball, strolling with a buggy, using imaginative play in the kitchens, and building blocks in the outdoor play areas.
- On speaking with staff, the inspectors were informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's interests, preferences and

play activities engaged in. Communication with parents was at drop off and collection times, by email, phone or via private messaging application 'app' that directly links the parents/ guardians with the staff in the pre-school.

- The children's art and craft materials were collated into scrap book folders and given to parents and guardians on a seasonal basis. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The themes of the week was Autumn. Children were observed painting and gluing leaves on the day.
- The staff present on the day of the inspection showed kindness - were caring, supportive and reassuring whilst caring for the children.
- The children from both playrooms enjoyed the fresh air, fun, exploration and discovery in the designated outdoor play area. The outdoor area was an extension to the indoor playrooms. The children in each playroom had direct access to all weathered sheltered areas. The outdoor play areas to the rear of the premises were sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. The children were observed playing and engaging in imaginary play in the mud kitchens, running, chasing games, riding on scooters, playing in the playhouse and building blocks.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs

(1) (a) (b)

1. There was no drinking water available for children to self-serve in the playroom. The children did not have access to a water station, that allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty and to self-serve on a regular basis.
2. In conflict with the service's own policy, crockery and plates were not offered to the children during their rolling snack time. Children ate from their lunch boxes, from tin foil covering and or directly from the tabletops. It is acknowledged that the registered provider advised the practice of using the services crockery and plates ceased during last term and showed the inspector the crockery and plates in the press.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 13/11/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A designated area has been implemented for a water station with a plastic jug filled with water and paper cups, the children can now self-serve when thirsty in each playroom.

2. The use of plates and cutlery has been implemented for snack and mealtimes and the staff will ensure the practice continues.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. A photograph was submitted.
2. A photograph was submitted.

Summary Comment

. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 (1) (a) (b) has 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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The entrance door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured by fencing / gates so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- The temperature of the playrooms was recorded and maintained within the recommended room temperature of 18°C -22°C.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Blinds cords were secured by fasteners and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of children attending the playroom.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled in each child's bag.
- The changing mat was clean and intact, gloves and aprons were available and an airtight sealed bin for safe disposal of nappies.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after playing outdoors and on entry and exiting the pre-school service.
- A supply of tissues was readily available indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in the playrooms.
- Foot pedaled lidded bins were available throughout the service and sanitary areas.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- There were child size couches with cushions beside the library in each playroom where a child could rest and relax.
- Stackable beds were available for the children who wish to attend the part time service. The staff advised that yoga and music is performed in the service regularly to allow the child to stretch, rest and relax while attending the pre-school. The inspector observed some children sitting and listening to a story while having a rest on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in their school bags, it is acknowledged by the registered provider that the fridge in Playroom 1 was broken and needs replacement.
2. There was no system for safe storage of individual child soothers or the safe sterilising of soothers in either playroom as this was at variance to best practice. Staff advised that soothers were rinsed under tap water. On the day of inspection, the early years inspector observed a soother exposed on the shelf in Playroom 2.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 13/11/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. A new service fridge was purchased and installed in the preschool. The children's lunches with perishable items will be stored in the service fridge from now on. The equipment in the preschool will be checked on a daily basis and faults reported to the person in charge.
2. The use of soothers in the preschool has been discontinued. The service policies have been updated to reflect the change.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. No evidence submitted.
2. A copy of the updated change to the service policy in relation to the use of soothers.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed and will be reviewed on next inspection..

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

(2)(a) The service had a first aid box with content items in date. They were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each playroom.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The service provided no evidence that a person trained in current first aid for children, was available at all times, for the children attending the pre-school service.

On the 10/10/2023 an Immediate action notice was issued requesting a person trained in first aid be made available on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 11/10/2023 and 13/11/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

Corrective and Preventive Action

Two people in the service will be trained in first aid for children, the 3-day course commencing on 24/10/2023, 25/10/2023 and will be completed by 26/10/2023. An alternative person in the national school will be available to the children in the service at all times until the two-pre-school staff have completed their training for the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A confirmation email from the training company stating the First Aid training has been completed by two staff and the certificate of completion is in process.

Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 (1) has been adequately addressed.

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 fire fighting 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 last recorded fire drill was in 29/09/2022.
- (b) Current records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 4/10/2023.

The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 4/09/2023.

- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance with an expiry date 27/04/2024 for a part time service for 44 children and included the following

- public liability insurance;
- insurance against fire and theft;
- buildings insurance;
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.