

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY224
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Name of Service:	Scoil Mhuire Pre School
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Address of Service:	Scoil Mhuire, Oranmore, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 59T8
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Burke , Fiona Burke
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA 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 Childcare 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 pre-school first opened in 2015 and offers sessional care programme from 08.30hrs to 11.30hrs, 09.00hrs to 12.00hrs for children aged 2 years and 6 years of age. The preschool is based on the grounds of the primary school in the village of Oranmore, Co. Galway. There are 3 separate playrooms and an outside playground with a combination of tarmacadam, and bark surfaces for children’s physical play activities The pre-school is registered as school aged children service in the afternoon

Staffing

The registered provider is on the premises daily. A total of 13 adults are currently working 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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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) Of the 26 written and appropriately validated references required for the adults working in the service, 22 were from their most recent employer.
- (b) Of the 26 written and appropriately validated references required for the adults working in the service, 4 from a source other than the previous last employer.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 5 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) All adults working directly with children have obtained 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.

(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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. The registered provider was on the premises during the duration of the inspection.

(3)

At 10 .30 am on the day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

- A team playroom, there were 3 adults working with 17 preschool children.
- Jumping Joey playroom, there were 3 adults working with 18 preschool children.
- Bright sparks playroom, there were adults working with 19 preschool children.

(8)(c) Not applicable, as this service is not operated by one person.

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

BASIS NEEDS

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Snacks and children's drinks were available to the children when they required them. Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack without feeling rushed. The children in the Jumping Joey's room were observed disposing of the food waste following their lunch and returning their lunch boxes their bags. The children were then free to go to the library area where a staff member was reading a story.
- Children are independent with their toileting needs and they have unrestricted access to the toilet that was located adjacent to the playrooms. Assistance was offered to the children when required.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunch and after toileting.
- The children had access to relaxation areas and soft seating in all of the playrooms.
- The staff members were observed to deal with disagreement between the children in a sensitive and calm manner. This was observed during the session, when 2 children had an issue with sharing a toy. One child became very upset and the staff spoke to the 2 children involved and the issue was quickly resolved.
- The children had access to their drink containers throughout the session, they were all conveniently located on low level tables or shelving unit.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in caring for themselves. The children were encouraged to put on their jackets, the staff members offered assistance but let the children do as much as they could prior to intervening.
- Each playroom got to use the different outdoor play areas throughout the session. The children had suitable outdoor footwear and jackets to wear in inclement weather. This was observed on the day when children in the Bright Sparks wore wellington boots and rainproof gear and high vis jackets when they were playing in the outdoor area, where they that observed digging and playing in the mud kitchen.