

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY233		
Name of Service:	Spraoui Early Learning Centre		
Address of Service:	Boland's Court, Gort, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 TK8X		
Name of Registered Provider:	Theresa Murphy		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/08/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Regulations Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway City.		
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.		
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.		

Description of service

Spraioi early learning centre opened under the present management in 2013. This service is in a private residential area, in the centre of the town of Gort, Co Galway. There are 4 playrooms which include a Nursery room, Wobbler room, Toddler room and Preschool room. Rest areas are provided in each of the playrooms to facilitate children to rest or relax during the day. The service also has 2 designated sleep rooms with a total of 12 cots for children less than 2 years of age to sleep. Additionally, there are stackable beds for children over 2 years of age. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals for children are prepared and heated. The outdoor play areas are located at the front, side and rear of the pre-school for children. The service offers a full day care programme from 8 am to 6 pm, from Monday to Friday, which caters for children aged between 0 to 6 years of age. The service also offers a part time and sessional service.

Staffing

The manager is the person in charge and is on the premises daily. The registered provider does not work on the premises, with the children daily. There is a total of 11 adults currently working in the premises which includes the manager and an auxiliary staff member.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 25, 26 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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 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) There was a person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge 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 when the pre-school children were present.
- All 13 adult files were reviewed including the director, registered provider, and area manager:
- (2)(a)&(b) Twenty-six of the validated references on file in respect of 13 adults were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 13 adults.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that 9 adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years and therefore required police vetting. The police vetting was available for inspection.
- (4) The ten adults had evidence of a childcare qualification to at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a 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 preschool attendance records and roster for the previous 3 weeks were reviewed and indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. On the day of inspection, the adult and child ratio were correct and maintained.

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

On the morning and afternoon of the inspection, 27 preschools children being directly cared for by 9 staff.

- 2 children were aged between 8 months and 1year,
- 18 children were aged 1 to 2 years,
- 7 children were aged 3 to 5 years,

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 staff were on the premises during the operating hours of the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h) and (i).

There was a total of 36 children's records and a sample of 12 children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The 15 random records of children contain the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation and permissions for collecting the child.

- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
 - The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
 - A record of any immunisations the child has had.
 - Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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*
- (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

19(a) and (b)

BASIC NEEDS

- A healthy eating policy was in place and a menu plan was available, on display on the day of inspection.
 - In the morning a breakfast of a selection of cereals and toast was offered to all children attending.
 - The main hot meal of the day was served at 12.15 pm and consisted of spaghetti bolognaise with cheese.
 - The 10.00 am consisted of sandwiches, cheese, brown bread, fresh fruit pieces, rice cakes and yogurts with juice, milk and water.
 - Drinks of milk and water were readily available for pre-school children to help themselves. The children had access to water station area in each of the playrooms.
- Children’s dietary and cultural requirements were respected.

- Perishable items from children’s lunches were stored in the service fridge.
- Age-appropriate crockery and cutlery were offered to the children for their snack and mealtimes.
- Children who were in the process of being toilet trained were encouraged to be independent at toileting and were supervised by adults.
- Children who were in nappies and had their nappies changed on a regular basis respecting the dignity of each child.
- The adults were observed to supervise children’s hand washing before snack times and dinner, following nappy changing and toileting and after outdoor play.
- In each of the playrooms, the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size seating, matting and foam shapes in designated cosy areas.
- In the 2 designated sleep rooms which were adjacent to the Baby room and the Toddler rooms, were available for children under 2 years of age. The preschool children were observed to physically check a sleeping child’s colour, position and breathing every 10 minutes and the temperature of sleep room. There were stackable beds available for children over 2 years of age which were in use on the day of inspection.
- Children’s behaviour was consistently managed in a competent, sensitive and positive manner by adults throughout the service.
- There were 4 outdoor play areas to the side and front of the premises which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service.
- The service had contact with the county childcare committee and was a member of a national childcare organizations for training support and networking purposes.

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 service did provide evidence that a person trained in first aid responder for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. There were three adults present on the day with a first aid responder in date cert. Seven of the adults had current training in first aid.
- (2)(a) The first aid boxes were accessible and in a conspicuous position in the kitchen.
- (b) The first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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 record in writing of fire drills was documented and the last fire drill took place on the 18/08/2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of fire-fighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that firefighting equipment was checked on the 17/07/2023 and the smoke detection system was serviced on the 17/07/2023.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure in the event of a fire was displayed in the lobby of the service.

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 for up to 40 full day care children valid to the 27/03/2024.