

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015GY266

Name of Service: Tigh na nOg Community Creche

Address of Service: Connemara West, Letterfrack, Co. Galway

Eircode: H91 R928

Name of Registered Provider: Caroline Heanue

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 24/07/2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	8

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance 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

Description of service

This service opened as a community childcare service in 2008. They operate as a Full Day Care Early Years' Service for children aged from 6 months of age to 5 years. The service operates from 08:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for a maximum of 65 preschool children. The service is also registered to cater for school aged children.

Staffing

There were 12 adults employed in the service which included the registered provider and the chef. On the day of inspection, there were 4 adults working directly with the preschool 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 9, 11, 23 and 25. 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 deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Additional Information

24/07/2023

An Immediate action notice was issued under Regulation 25(1), First Aid, 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 preschool service.

28/07/2023

A response was received from the registered provider, who stated that the staff member trained on first aid will on the premises at all times. On the week of the 31/07/2023, 2 staff member will receive training in first aid, which will increase the total of staff trained in First Aid to 3 adults.

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

The files of 12 adults were reviewed on the day of inspection, which included the registered provider and a person responsible for food preparation.

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service and there were 2 staff members appointed as deputy persons in charge.

(b) The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service but was not on the premises during the duration of the inspection . A deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection.

- (2) (a)(b) There were 19 validated references from past employers or a reputable were available on file.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for 12 adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required as the adults had not lived outside the state for a period exceeding six consecutive months
- (4) All adults who worked directly with the children in the service held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education had a minimum of a level 5.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)(b)

- 1 Two validated references from past employers or a reputable were not available on file for 2 adults working in the premises.
2. A second validated reference was not available on file for 1 adult working in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- 1,2. All staff files have been checked to ensure that validated references are held on file in respect of all adults working in the service.
Staff files will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the necessary documents as required are on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 24/08/2023, the registered provider submitted copies of the outstanding validated references to the early year 's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances identified under this regulation on inspection have been adequately address.

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

(2) On the morning of the inspection, at 10.30 am, there were 10 pre-school children present with 3 adults working directly with, caring, and supervising these children.

- 2 children were aged between 1 year and 2 years,
- 4 children were aged between 2 and 3 years,
- 4 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

At 4 pm there were 8 pre-school children present, with 3 adults working directly with, caring, and supervising these children.

- 2 children were aged between 1 and 2 years,
- 3 child was aged between 2 and 3 years,
- 3 children were aged between 3 and 5 years.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider was unable to provide evidence that there was an adequate number of adults available when staff required breaks. Evidence of staffing to cover breaks was not available, as the staff roster was not available for inspection, which must keep record of the following:
- Details of the staff member on duty with First Aid Responder training.
 - The adult: child ratio for each playroom in the service.
 - Details of each person not included in the adult : child ratio , e.g., students or auxiliary staff.
 - Records the start time, break times and finish time of each person in attendance every day.
 - Demonstrate that there is sufficient staff cover for breaks, kitchen duty and relief cover.
 - Must be documented on a weekly or monthly basis.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff roster for the service has been reviewed and changed to include all the relevant information.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 24/08/2023, the registered provider, submitted a detailed staff roster to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances identified under this regulation on inspection have been adequately address.

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

Compliance Information

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Soft seating was available in all of the playroom, they were used by the children to sit and relax in during the day. An area with a curtain and soft lighting was introduced to enhance the experience of the children attending.
- A large number of "cause and effect toys" in the Wobbler room were available to the children, they are checked regularly by the staff to ensure that they are suitable for the age profile of the children attending.
- The toy doll house in the Wobbler room was restocked with furniture and dolls.
- A box of blocks and puzzles were stored within reach of the children, the staff member rotate the jigsaws to ensure that the children are provided with challenging experiences.
- There was a box of dolls in the room also, the children had clothing and resources for the dolls to play with.
- The playrooms had a number of defined interest areas. It is acknowledged that these areas are being developed and enhanced by the staff members. The kitchen unit had resources, such as pots, cups, food etc, readily available for the children to play with.

BASIC NEEDS:

- On the day of inspection, the hot main meal of pasta, tomato sauce and with was served from 12.15 pm. The children all ate their lunch in the dedicated dining room.
- The adults encouraged and supported the children to feed themselves independently in accordance with their age and stage of development.
- Drinks were available for children in each of the playrooms.

- Children attending the service who were toilet trained, either toileted independently or with some assistance by adults as required.
- The children self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g., to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after messy play and after playing outdoors and on entry / exiting the preschool service.
- There was an outdoor play area to the side of the premises which was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. The outdoor areas were used by the children for the majority throughout the session.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. The fire doors and fire exits were obstructed with a large number of toys and the fire corridors were used as a storage area of a number of items. This posed a risk to both staff and children in the event of an emergency that required an evacuation.

Infection Control:

2. The 2 nappy disposal unit that were used for the disposal of nappies were not suitable as they were not leakproof, cleanable, sealable airtight and foot pedalled as required. They posed a risk of cross infection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The service is currently sourcing suitable storage units for this area.
2. Nappy disposal unit are on order.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 21/09/2023, the registered provider submitted photography of the fire corridor, where the service has greatly reduced the number of toys and equipment stored in this space.

An invoice indicating that 2 disposal units were ordered on the 24/08/2023.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement remains outstanding as point 1 has not been adequately addressed. Evidence that the storage units have not been installed has not been submitted.

This 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)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available for children. They were stored in easily accessible positions within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
On the day of inspection, a person trained in first aid was not on the premises at all times. On review of the staff files, it was evident that only one staff member was trained in first aid. That person trained in first aid was not on the premises at the times during the operational hours of the service.

An Immediate action notice was issued under Regulation 25(1), first aid, where 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 preschool service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

28/07/2023

A response was received from the registered provider, who stated that the staff member trained on first aid will be on the premises at all times.

On the week of the 31/07/2023, 2 staff members will receive training in first aid, which will increase the total of staff trained in first aid to 3 adults.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 28/09/2023, the registered provider submitted a list of 8 staff members that received First Aid training in First Aid and an invoice from the company that provided the training.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances identified under this regulation on inspection have been adequately addressed.