

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

RIONA TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE073
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Name of Service:	Vivienne's Playschool
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Address of Service:	12 The Drive, Abbey Farm, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W62 DY23
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Name of Registered Provider:	Vivienne Kavanagh
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/12/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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	n/a
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Description of service

	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015KE073	1 of 9
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Vivienne's Playschool was established in 2000 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years by Vivienne Kavanagh Registered Provider.

The service provides sessional childcare and education to preschool children from 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.10 - 15.10hrs, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a secured purpose-built premises at the rear of the registered providers home, in a residential area in Celbridge. The outdoor play area is directly accessible from the preschool room for the children to use daily. Parking and set down facilities are available.

The service consists of an open plan room with sanitary facilities.

Staffing

Vivienne's Playschool employs two childcare staff including the registered provider who works directly with the preschool children. The adults working in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 and 8 as per the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 and health, welfare and development of child and safety. 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, the staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Two staff records were reviewed.

(2)

(a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of one adult whose records were reviewed.

(b) Two written and verified references from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of one adult whose records was reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two staff members; however, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Not required, as no adult had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Two adults working directly with the children held qualifications in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher 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.

(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) There were ten children attending the service being supervised directly by two adults.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the morning.

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

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service by:

Basic needs of the children

The service had a healthy eating policy and children could access their drinks as they wished. The staff members sat with the children during snack time and were attentive to their needs; conversations and interactions between the children and the adults were observed to be informative, educational and fun.

The children were encouraged to be independent, and they were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings; assistance was given when needed.

The staff members were very experienced and confident looking after preschool children and demonstrated an advanced knowledge of the management of children's behaviour where there was an emphasis on praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour.

The children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the pre-school room and they were provided with the opportunity for outdoor play.

A comfortable rest area was available in the care room for the children if they wanted to take a break, rest and sit quietly.

Supporting relationships around children.

The children were cared for by the same adults who enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and confidence within the service. On the day of the inspection the staff members were observed responding promptly to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. They were observed offering choices to children, using the child's name, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to the children and facilitating age-appropriate choice. Individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wished to engage with specific chosen activities. Staff praised each child present for their involvement in activities.

The staff were very skilful at managing transitions within the service and the children responded very positively to these times.

The service operated in partnership with parents and has an open-door policy for parents. The registered provider uses a closed electronic system to communicate with parents and a verbal exchange of information and an update on the child's day is provided at collection time.

Physical & Material Environment

The curriculum was delivered through the medium of play and child led based on the children's natural sense of curiosity, inquiry and emerging interests. In order to facilitate this approach, the pre-school room had defined areas of interest, was very well resourced and presented. The environment was well planned and thoughtfully considered from the child's perspective. It was equipped with low level tables and chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the pre-school children. The layout and the presentation of the resources in the playroom enabled the children to choose their activities based on their natural sense of inquiry and interests.

The outdoor area was spacious and had defined areas of interest.

There was a good balance between structured work periods and free play which promoted learning for the children in a way that enabled them to consolidate their experiences through imaginative and social play.

The staff members facilitated the children in small groups to extend their play and learning. Children's choices and decisions were respected, and they were provided with the freedom to achieve mastery and success.

There was predictability and routine to the morning and the children responded to this very positively. All the children attending on the day of the inspection were observed to be busy, engaged and very happy in their environment.

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

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for two staff members. However, the two vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Application for two Garda Vetting disclosures is in progress. The staff files will be checked, and reapplication will commence 3 months before 3 year expiry.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Tracker application for two Garda Vetting disclosure applications which are in progress.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentation submitted has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. The requirement for regulatory compliance for regulation 23 has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
 - (iii) an employee, or
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a), (b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The registered provider confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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) Persons were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care room.
 - (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available to the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the children were supervised indoors and outdoors at all times.