

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE146		
Name of Service:	Tiggerz Den		
Address of Service:	Sawalya, Old Grange, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare		
Eircode:	W34 R265		
Name of Registered Provider:	Breda Mcguirk		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	07/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W		
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher, E. Griffin		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		

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

This private sessional service is located in an urban setting. There were 19 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2- 6 years of age. The service is open Monday to Friday from 09:15-12:15hrs and from 13:00-16:00hrs, for 38 weeks of the year. The service is located in a purpose-built premises to the rear of the private home of the registered provider. One large preschool room is provided which leads on to an outdoor play area to the rear of the pre-school.

Staffing

A total of five adults are employed in the service including the registered provider and one relief staff member. On the day of inspection there were four adults present, three adults were working directly with the children and the registered provider/person in charge was onsite offering support and assistance when required.

All employees had attained a childcare qualification recognised on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 inspections 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Five staff files were reviewed.

(a),(b) Ten written and verified references from a past employer or a reputable source in the absence of a reference from a past employer, were available for five adults in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all five adults employed.

(d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived outside the state for more than six months as an adult.

(3)

Evidence reviewed confirmed that the procedures referred to in paragraph (2) of this regulation, were carried out and documentation was in place prior to an adult commencing work in the service.

(4)

All staff qualifications were reviewed. Five adults employed giving direct care to the pre-school children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
There were three adults working directly with nineteen children attending the pre-school service. This did not include the person-in-charge/registered provider who remained on site at all times as supportive role.
- (3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

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)
- BASIC NEEDS:**
- The children's basic care needs were met on the day of inspection. The service promoted healthy eating in the service. Children brought snacks from home, staff reported that the Healthy Eating Policy together with a guidance sheet of ideas for healthy snacks was shared with parents prior to children starting in the service.
 - Children's drinks were available within their reach throughout the session, should they feel thirsty at any stage and due to the warm day children were encouraged to take plenty of drinks.

- Children were provided with plenty of shelter from the large, covered area in the outdoor play area and were protected from direct sunlight when playing.
- The children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and were supervised with hand washing when necessary.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The preschool room was bright and welcoming with plenty of natural light provided.
- The physical environment both indoors and outdoors were constructively planned and arranged to create an inviting setting to support different types of self-directed play and learning. Areas of interest in the pre-school room included a home corner, two cozy corners with child sized furniture, three activity tables, an art area, a magnetic easel board and lots of fun age-appropriate toys and Montessori equipment.
- The toys and equipment in the room were placed on low shelving and easily accessible to the children to choose as they wished. Materials and equipment included, shaped cylinders, puzzles, lacing beads, clothes pegs, building blocks, animals, small figures, cars and plenty of art and craft material.
- The outdoor play area was well maintained with direct access from the preschool room via a ramp secured with wooden fencing on one side. The door to the outdoor area was left open so children could go in and out easily between the two areas. Materials and equipment in the area supported various types of play including role play, imaginative play and cooperative play with the inclusion of two playhouses equipped with furniture, dolls and prams and various associated props. There were three play carparks with a choice of toy vehicles, a basketball hoop at children's level with a box of different size balls for fun and enjoyment. There was a mud kitchen with lots of open-ended material for exploration and discovery. There was an art easel with an apron box underneath and paint, paint brushes and water were available. There was sand and water available in this area also with digging equipment and tools.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

- The adults working with the children were observed to be respectful, sensitive and responsive in promoting independence skills and promoting children to make individual choices.
- A health promoting ethos was implemented in the service in relation to supporting the children's emotional well-being. This was evidenced in the service on the day of inspection with the staff members been aware of children's need for space and alone time.

- At circle time children were invited to participate, however when a child chose to continue with their own play and wanted to go outdoors, staff positively acknowledged and supported this thus supporting children's choice and the transition for this child settling into the service.
- The transition between 'play time' and 'tidy up time' was recognised and supported by staff. For example, the staff member in the preschool room gave children five more minutes to play before 'tidy up time'.
- During snack time the staff members sat at the table and engaged in social conversation with the children, promoting a relaxed atmosphere.
- Two family walls with photographs of the children and their families helped children feel connected to home while attending the service, particularly if they became upset or lonely.
- Staff spoke about how they work in partnership with parents within the service; newsletters provided information and updates to parents at the end of each term, an open-door policy ensured parents were welcomed into the service at any time to discuss their child's emotional and educational needs, this was further evidenced as staff were observed to chat at the door with parents at collection time.
- The outdoor play area integrated with the local farming community, as a local farmer had come in the springtime with a baby lamb. There was a chicken coop next door which the children were able to look through the fence and observe the chickens wandering about.

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:

- Entry to the service was safely secured by a bell system preventing unauthorised access and children leaving the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen and storage areas were inaccessible.
- All toys and play equipment were safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were kept out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were available for the pre-school and sanitary areas.

- Hand sanitiser, liquid soap, paper towel and pedal operated bins were provided to facilitate hand hygiene.
- Children were prompted to wash their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and prior to eating.
- Windows and doors were opened throughout the day to allow fresh air to circulate in the care rooms.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Staff advised during conversation with the inspector, they were very familiar with the safe administration of medication procedures if medicine was required to be administered to a child.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency.
- Emergency exit doors were observed to be unobstructed on the day of inspection.
- The sign for the fire assembly point was clearly visible in the outdoor area.

Outing:

Outings are not conducted from the service as advised by the registered provider.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There were no hand towel dispensers in the toilets adjacent to the preschool room, this posed a risk of cross infection.

This non-compliance was present on a previous inspection on 1 June 2021. It is acknowledged that the service took immediate action to address the non-compliance by putting a hand towel dispenser outside the toilet area in the preschool room. However, this remains a non-compliance as the hand towel dispensers were not located beside the sinks in the toilet cubicles for immediate and easy access to reduce the risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Four paper towel dispensers have been purchased.

Supporting documentation submitted

Receipt for items purchased.

Photograph of items purchased.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 23 has been met and will be reviewed at the time of the next inspection.

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.

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 the pre-school.

(2)
Not applicable as this was not a drop in service.

(3)(a)
The registered provider ensured that a written record was maintained of pre-school children and each employee in respect of (i) and (iii) of this regulation; this was confirmed by the written completed daily attendance sheet for the children and signed attendance for each staff member indicating arrival and departure times to/from the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(a)

There was no daily check in/check out register in place to approve a person's entry to the service with regard to:

(ii) a person dropping or collecting a child

(iv) an unpaid worker

(b) There was no daily record kept in writing of any such person(s) entering the service, for example there was no visitor book/documentation available to record same.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A Visitor Sign-In Book is in place. Staff are instructed to ensure all visitors sign in.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of visitor's book in place with details of approved entry to the service recorded and dated 13/15 September 2023.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 24 has been met.

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)
Two adults employed had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training, both staff members were present and were immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)
The registered provider ensured there was a suitably equipped first aid box for children.

(a)(b)
The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the service and immediately available at all times for the children.

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 fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 8 June 2023.

(b)

A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the premises. Firefighting equipment was last inspected March 2023.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the entrance hallway and in all rooms of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(b)

There was no up to date record available detailing the maintenance of the smoke/fire detection system in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Service completed for smoke/fire detection system. A yearly servicing of the system will be carried out by a competent person.

Supporting documentation submitted

Maintenance certificate dated 15 September 2023.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 26 has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2024. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.