

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KK085		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Rower Pre-School		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Coiste and Robhair, Farrantemple, The Rower, Kilkenny		
<b>Eircode:</b>	R95 T289		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Betty Gannon		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/05/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, Ferrybank, Wexford.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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).			
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable		

### Description of service

This sessional service is located in the village of The Rower in south county Kilkenny. There were 14 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm. The service operates from a community hall in the centre of the village. There is an early years room, toilets, and outdoor play area. The children also have access to a large indoor hall with a stage area which has been renovated in recent years.

### Staffing

There were four staff, including the registered provider present on the day of inspection. All were working directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

### 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment,
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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, 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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

#### Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the registered provider and review of documentation in the service it was established that the service continued to employ the same staff since the last inspection on 2 June 2021. All staff files were compliant on the previous inspection and were not examined.

1(a)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The person in charge was also in the service and was available to deputise.

(7)

The inspector observed that the staff were supervised by the registered provider who was present on the day of the inspection. Documents reviewed demonstrated staff had received recent training in first aid for children. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable on the services policies and procedures. For example, the settling in policy.

(a)

The staff had been provided with appropriate information and training on the service's policies and procedures. The policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were available in the service.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the early years service.

(2)  
During the morning session there were 14 children in the care of 4 staff. The registered provider was also in the service and was available to assist in the early years room as required.

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of staff to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained at all times during the inspection.

### 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 service. Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection including tabletop activities such as playing with play dough and colouring in templates provided by the service. Interactions between children were well managed by staff who were caring for them.

For example, staff sat with the children during snack time encouraging them to talk about their likes and dislikes of food with each other. One child was overheard by the inspector saying “I hate sour so much” many of their friends agreed with the child.

There was a curriculum in place and observations had been carried out on individual children and evidence of their emerging interests and plans for learning were documented. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, one child was observed by the inspector taking their turn to collect bread for the birds. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children enjoyed gathering bread to feed the birds.

One child who was settling in was given the choice to join activities or enjoy free play in the various areas of interest in the room. Staff were attentive and caring to the child. Occasionally the child was observed coming to various staff members for reassurance and hugs. Staff were observed by the inspector being affectionate and attentive to the child’s varying need for independence and reassurance.

During activities staff used opportunities to extend children’s learning and development. For example, during tabletop activities staff introduced words “as gaeilge” to extend the children’s Irish vocabulary.

The early years room was well resourced with a range of toys and equipment for the children’s learning and enjoyment. For example, there was a dolls house, a kitchen, dolls and buggies, and shelves containing a selection of jigsaws, books, and plastic bricks.

The outdoor play area was located directly beside the rear door. This area was well resourced with stimulating play equipment for the children’s learning and fun. There was artificial grass flooring to minimise injuries to the children if they fell. There was a jungle gym and benches for the children to sit on.

### 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:

The entrance door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. The outdoor area to the side of the service was safe, suitable, and secure. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.

##### Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. For example, cleaning schedules were maintained daily. There was liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal bins available throughout the service. The children and staff were observed washing their hands before snack time and after messy play.

### 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)

There was a person trained in first aid immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in the service on 24 April 2023.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm was last serviced in April 2023 and firefighting equipment was last serviced in August 2022.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance hallway of the service.