

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY004				
Name of Service:	Anabla Preschool Play 'n' Learn				
Address of Service:	Anabla, Kilcummin, Killarney, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 KN60				
Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Marie Barrett-Farmer				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	22/06/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	134 Bank Place, Mallow, Cork. P51 EC59				
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel				
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
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Description of service

Anabla Play'n'Learn is a private sessional service offering a morning sessional service between the hours of 9.00 am until 12.00 noon which facilitates the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service is registered for children aged two years of age to six years of age, currently children attend who are aged from two years and eight months to six years old. The service is open thirty-eight weeks of the year.

Anabla Play'n'Learn operates from a classroom which is located within Anabla National School in the rural area of Kilcummin in County Killarney. There are two children's toilets off the main classroom and the adult toilet is situated in the main hall. A dedicated outdoor area is accessible to the children, they also have use of the school playground, located at the rear of the school, and a large grass area adjacent to the service.

Staffing

There are currently two adults employed in the service including the registered provider. A relief person is also available in the event of staff absence.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy, 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.

(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 was available to deputise in the service.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that both the designated person in charge and the deputy are present when the pre-school children are in the service.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service with each person aware of their role and responsibility. A staff structure with photographs was available on the notice board in the service.

(2) Recruitment records in relation to the two adults working in the service and the relief person were reviewed.

(a) There were four references from past employers, two of which had validations.

(b) There were two references from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for all three adults.

(d) An international police disclosure was available for one adult who had lived outside the State for a period of six months or longer as an adult.

(4) The three adults all held a major award at Level 6 or above in Early Childhood Care and Education as listed on the National Framework of Qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) (b) Four validations were missing in respect of two adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

(a) (b) The four validated references have been added to the recruitment files.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)

(a) (b) Copies of the four validated references were received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this Regulation has been met.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3) The ratio of adults to children was met. There were eleven pre-school children in attendance with two adults in the morning session.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1) Pre-school records for the thirteen children attending the early years service were reviewed. Information was available for particulars (a), (d), (e), (g) and (i).

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) (c) Provision was not available on the pre-school record to document the date on which the children first attended or ceased attending the service.
- (f) There was no individual medical plan for a child with a chronic illness.
- (h) Records of immunisations were missing for four of the pre-school children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The following statements were submitted by the registered provider:

- (1)
- (b) (c) The start date and cease date have been added to each record. A new record with the start date and cease date has been created for future use. A tick box checklist has been added to each record to ensure all details are completed for each record in the future.
- (f) An asthma plan, which was compiled by the General Practitioner and the parent, has been attached to the pre-school record of the child.

(h) The missing immunisation information for the four children has been added to each child's pre-school record.

Supporting documentation submitted

The following documentation was received in the office of the inspectorate:

- (1)
- (a) (b) Copies of the start/cease date added to the existing records, the new registration form which includes a start and cease date and the new tick box checklist.
- (f) A copies of the asthma plan and letter from the General Practitioner.
- (h) Copies of the four missing immunisation records.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified under this Regulation.

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

BASIC NEEDS:

- Snack was provided by the parents/guardians and was observed to be healthy and nutritious. Children were observed eating sandwiches, pretzels, yogurt, cheese, and a selection of fruits including water melon.
- Water was available at all times from a basket which held each child's water bottle. Cutlery and crockery were also available for each child.
- Children were observed accessing the sanitary area independently. Adults were nearby to provide assistance if required.
- A rest/quiet area was available where children could sit away from noisy activities.
- Children experiencing difficulty with the rules of games were responded to in a patient and sensitive manner. Staff were observed supporting children to find positive ways of dealing with their emotions including talking in a calm manner and asking the children to take deep breaths.

- The children could move freely around the room and all children were given the opportunity to play outdoors.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS:

- During snack the staff members sat the table with the children and engaged in social conversation which centred around siblings finishing national school. Staff were involved in helping children to open yogurts and other packages. The atmosphere was happy and relaxed with children returning their snack boxes to a central box where they were collected by each child at the end of the session.
- The two staff members were observed working together throughout the morning discussing the timing of activities, planning resources and sharing tasks.
- Transitions for activities were given verbally and digitally. Staff stated that it was tidy-up time and then put on a television linked to a laptop of a short programme showing children singing and tidying away their toys. Staff lead by example assisting the children to put away their toys.
- Staff stated communication with parents/guardians was conducted through a digital application and also at drop off and collection.
- Communication with staff was stated as happening informally each day and formally every term.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The room was set up in clearly defined areas which provided opportunities for learning across all developmental areas. Examples included a home corner with a wooden sink and cooker, dressing up, dollies and a buggy for imaginary play, arts & crafts materials, sand and water enabled children to experience sensory play. Puzzles, sorting materials and construction provided possibilities for cognitive development and language development was facilitated with singing, puppets and storytelling.
- The materials and resources were age and stage appropriate and available in baskets on low-lying shelves. These were easily accessible and offered choice and independence to the children.
- A well-stocked bookcase provided a wide range of books which supported the children's language development.
- Tables and chairs were suited to the age and stage of the children in the pre-school.
- There were three alternative outdoor areas available to the children offering a change of environments and opportunities. The dedicated outdoor play area directly accessible from the classroom offered sensory development. Examples of which included plants such as lemon balm and lavender planted by the children along with sand, stones and shells which were located in a covered trough on the ground. Imaginary play was facilitated with a mud kitchen and playhouse along with large spools and tyres. Gross

motor skills were facilitated in the grass area and playground with the children able to run and cycle using the scooters and bicycles.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:

- Observations linked to Aistear, the early years curriculum, were available on a digital application which documented the children's interests and learning in the service.
- Children's language development and understanding was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and games both indoors and outdoors.
- Children who did not want to engage in planned activities were given the option of selecting their own choice of activity, this happened frequently throughout the morning.

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 internal and external doors of the service were secured preventing children exiting unsupervised or unauthorised adults entering the classroom.
- The three openable windows were out of reach of the children.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition and were well maintained.
- Blind cords were secured and inaccessible to the children.
- The television cable was out of reach of the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a high cupboard above the sink, inaccessible by the children.
- The outdoor dedicated play area was secured with two gates both of which had number locks, bolts which were inaccessible to the children and a wooden fence. The outdoor playground which the children share with the school was secured with high metal fencing and two bolted gates. The outdoor grass area was secured with fencing and high trees.

Infection Control:

- Staff and children had access to thermostatically controlled hot water at the wash hand basins (ranging from 25.8°C-37.6°C), dispensing soap, sensor paper towels in a dispenser and a pedal operated bin for the disposal of waste.

- Perishable food was noted to be stored in the fridge.
- The three windows in the service were opened facilitating the circulation of fresh air.
- Hooks were available for children to store their belongings away from the floor area.
- Tissues were readily available and a pedal bin was available for the disposal of waste.
- Staff were observed disinfecting the tables and sweeping the floors after food. Areas were cleaned when children finished at the end of the day.
- Cleaning rotas were completed and up to date.

Administration of Medication:

- Anti-febrile medication was available, stored in its original container and was noted to be in date.

Safe Sleep:

- A rest area was available and was furnished with a stackable bed, cushions and blankets.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency fire exit was unobstructed.
- The fire assembly notice (Number 3) was visible in the school playground located at the front of the school.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- (1) A large doll's house was not anchored posing a safety risk from tipping or falling
- (2) Flexes located under the adult table were accessible to the children when they were collecting their floor mats for circle time. These posed a safety risk from the children getting caught in the flex and pulling down the attached laptop on top of themselves.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The following statements were provided by the registered provider:

General Safety:

- (1) The doll's house has been secured with a bracket.
- (2) All flexes have been secured and encased.

Supporting documentation submitted

The following photographs were received in the office of the inspectorate:

General Safety:

- (1) The doll's house secured with brackets to the wall.
- (2) The flexes secured and enclosed in casing under the table.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified under this Regulation.

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) Certificates were available to evidence that two adults had First Aid Responder (FAR) training completed. The dates of expiry of both certificates were recorded as 27 July 2024 and 9 September 2024 respectively.

(2) (a) (b) A well-equipped first aid box, which was available at all times, was positioned within easy reach of the adults on a shelf near the staff table.

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 kept of fire drills that took place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 6 May 2023.
- (b) A written record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment. The

maintenance certificate was dated 04/10/2022.

(4) A visual notice displaying the fire procedures for the service was available on the notice board.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (b) An up-to-date maintenance certificate was unavailable for the smoke alarms in the service. The maintenance record was dated 4 November 2021.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The following statement was provided by the registered provider:

- (2)
- (b) A date of the 24 July 2023 has been confirmed with the smoke alarm contractor to complete the annual inspection service and testing of the smoke alarm. This will be completed annually in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)
- (b) A copy of an email from the Fire and Safety company confirming the date of 24 July 2023 for the annual inspection service and testing of the smoke alarm was received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under this Regulation. The smoke alarm certificate will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured. The service was insured for twenty-two children on a sessional basis. Details of the insurance included public liability, fire and theft and outings. The expiry date was noted as 27 March 2024.