

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY008
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Name of Service:	Ballyspillane Childcare Services
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Address of Service:	Ballyspillane Family Resource Centre, Ballyspillane, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 FD1H
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eibhlin Ni Chathain
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	26/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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

Ballyspillane Childcare services is a registered community based early years service . The service provides part-time care and sessional care to children aged from 0 to 6 years. The current opening hours are from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from a detached purpose-built premise within Ballyspillane Family Resource centre. There are 3 playrooms namely the Toddler room, Pre-school 1 and Pre-school 2. The children attending each of the playrooms have access each day to a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area.

Staffing

There are 11 adults working directly with the children, including the designated person in charge and the deputy in charge who work on administrative duties as well as caring for the children in the playrooms. The registered provider is not service based.

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.

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 person in charge, deputy in charge, 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

(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.

(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 is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize as required.

- (b) At all times during the period when the preschool service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.

(2) The person in charge confirmed that 1 adult had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 23/11/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to this adult were reviewed.

- (a) Not applicable, the references on file were from a source other than a past employer.
- (b) 2 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 1 adult.

(4) The adult in question is not a childcare staff member.

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

(1) There was an adequate number of adults maintained at all times.

(2) The 3 playrooms were in operation on the day of the inspection.

Toddler room

There were 3 staff caring for 8 children aged between 1 and 3 years, 5 children attending on a sessional basis.

Pre-school Room1

There were 2 staff caring for 11 children aged between 2 years and 3 years, 5 children attending on a sessional basis and 6 children attending on a part-time basis.

Pre-school room 2

There were 3 staff caring for 12 children aged between 4 years and 5 years, 2 children were attending on a sessional basis and 10 children were attending on a part-time basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8) (a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

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) A sample of 12 records were inspected and found to have the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The following records were kept:

- (h) details of attendance by a child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) details of any medication administered to a child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury and incident involving a child attending the service.

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

- The children attending the service enjoyed freedom of movement within the spacious playrooms.
- The rooms were bright and colourful with various colourful posters and some artwork. The staff informed the inspector that much of the children's artwork was removed from display and placed in their individual learning journals for the parents.

- The staff facilitated play time individually, in pairs and in small groups. They spoke to the children in a kind and comforting manner, praised them for their efforts and supported them in decision making.
- The children’s need for rest, relaxation and comfort was met as each of the playrooms were provided with designated rest areas consisting of soft matting, soft seating and cushions. The inspector observed the children accessing the rest areas as they chose to rest, relax and opt out of play activities.
- Nappy changing was carried out as required in a timely manner throughout the day.
- The children had unlimited access to the toilets located within the playrooms and a toilet located within the outdoor play are and the independent use of the toilet was encouraged and supported by the adults.
- The parents/guardians of the children attending provided all food for the children’s mealtimes. The children’s drinks bottles were re-filled with water as was needed and the bottles were observed in an easily accessible location in the playrooms.
- A designated lunchroom located within the pre-school 1 was established since the last inspection.
- Rolling snack time was introduced for the children attending the pre-school 2. A designated lunch table was positioned near the fridge, the area named the “pre-school canteen”. The children helped themselves to their respective lunches from the fridge, sat at the table and it was their choice to take the time they wanted to eat. The staff were on hand to provide help if needed to open packaging and to cut up fruit.
- The inspector observed the staff issuing gentle reminders about mealtimes to the children who were happily playing.
- The food observed on inspection included - rice cakes, sandwiches, bread rolls, crackers, apples, bananas and grapes. A second mealtime was provided for children attending the service on a part0time day care basis.
- The children were provided with opportunities to play outside daily and were supported and supervised during the various play activities. Since the last inspection of the service an “Outdoor Den” was constructed, it consisted of a covered in area with concrete slabs and wood bark underfoot.

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 service was adequately secured, it prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or unsupervised exit by a child.
- The designated outdoor play areas were secured by fencing and gates.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelving or secured cupboards out of the reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Fridges were used to store children's perishable food items.
- The care rooms and sanitary facilities were adequately ventilated by natural and mechanical ventilation

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The temperature of the water at the wash hand basin was recorded at 49.9 degrees Celsius at the wash hand basin pre-school room 1 nappy changing room posing a risk of scalding.
2. There were 2 loose cables accessible to the children attending Pre-school room 1 posing a risk of strangulation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The early years manager stated: -

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The problem was discovered was a motorised valve which was rectified by the plumber. The temperature of the water in all the rooms is being checked by the staff regularly throughout the day.
2. The 2 loose cables have been covered and are no longer accessible to the children. Cables in future will be covered and will be inaccessible to the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. The statement is accepted as evidence.
2. A photograph of the covered cables.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation 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.

Compliance Information

(1) 6 adults working in the service had current First Aid Responder training for which the certifications were on file.

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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -

- (a) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 19/06/2023.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was 25/05/ 2023 and the smoke alarm was 08/06/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file. The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider.
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 55 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 12/08/'23