

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY032				
Name of Service:	Coolick Pre-School				
Address of Service:	Coolick, Kilcummin, Killarney, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 DW65				
Name of Registered Provider:	Gearóid O'Sullivan				
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	14/06/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>14</td> <td>PM</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table>	AM	14	PM	11
AM	14	PM	11		
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	N/A
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Description of service

Coolick Pre-school is an early years service that is registered to provide part-time and sessional care for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service is currently operating between the hours of 08.50am and 1:30 pm, providing the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme for children between the hours of 08:50 am and 11:50 am. The premise consists of a single storey prefabricated building situated on the grounds of Coolick National school. There were 2 designated outdoor play areas available and accessible to the children attending, one was the astroturf pitch that is used at allocated times to the children attending the national school.

Staffing

There are 3 adults employed in the service who work directly with the children, this includes one adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme The registered provider is the Principal of Coolick National school who does not work with the children.

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. 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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the Registered Provider in respect of no adult on site with up to date first aid training. The service submitted a written response outlining the measures taken to mitigate the concern identified.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person 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, 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 is a named designated person in charge and a named deputy who both work in the service.
 - (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the deputy are on the premises. The deputy in charge was on the premise for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The inspector was informed by the person in charge that four adults are attached to the service. The recruitment records in respect of the four adults were the subject of the inspection.
- (a)
- There were eight written validated references on file from a past employer.
- (b)
- Not applicable as the references on file were from a past employer.
- (c)
- Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the four adults. 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)
- Police vetting was on file for one adult who had lived outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6 and above.

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 were 2 adults working with 14 children aged between 3 and 5 years, 3 attending on a sessional basis and 11 attending on a part-time basis.
- (2) The minimum number of adults was maintained.
- (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.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) There was a record held for 15 of the 17 children enrolled in the service. Each of the 15 records had the required detail as per (a) to (h).

Non-Compliance Information

A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) in respect of 2 children attending the service were not on file on the day the inspection took place.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The said records were located and placed in the correct folder. A staff member has been allocated to check the folders each month to ensure all the documentation is in place.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement and an image of the records is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

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 children moved about freely in the indoor environment.
- The service had a variety of toys and resources available to the children positioned on the low-level open shelving and on the floor for children to independently access them.
- A selection of toys, play materials and equipment were in the storeroom, they are rotated throughout the year the inspector was informed by the person in charge.
- The parents of the children attending supplied the food served at the mealtimes. The children were enabled to relax at their respective tables prior to the mid-morning snack with relaxing music playing.
- The children sat at the low -level tables and ate sandwiches, crackers, a selection of fruit and water to drink.
- The children that remained in the service for the part-time day care had food to consume at the second mealtime.
- The children had access to their drink's bottles during the session on the low-level shelving. Drinking water was available at the sink in the playroom.
- The adults supervised the children whilst eating allowing them ample time to eat their food.
- The staff supported the children with toileting. They had unlimited access to the toilets located in the playroom.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and attentive to the children in their care.

- The children enjoyed playing in the outdoor play areas, firstly in the astroturf area at an alternate time to the children attending the national school and for a period of time in the smaller designated area for the sole use of the children attending the service.

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 main entrance door to the premise was secured to restrict unauthorised access and to prevent a child gaining unauthorised access out of the building.
- The cleaning products observed on inspection were stored out of the reach of the children on a high shelf in the playroom and in the secured storeroom.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The children's perishable food items were not placed in the fridge to prevent food spoilage until the first mealtime began at 11 am.
- Unwrapped filled bread rolls were placed in the fridge for the second mealtime posing a risk to children of cross contamination.
- Some food served to the children in respect of a child's birthday celebration was served directly on the tables posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

- 1.& 2. All food will be placed in the fridge, in a separate zip lock bag with the child's name. The parents will be packing the lunches. All staff members have been advised on how lunches should be stored in the fridge.
3. Paper plates and napkins will be used for future parties. Staff have read the policy on infection control in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

- 1,2, & 3. The statements are accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement 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) The Inspector was informed that 1 adult employed in the service had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training with the certification in respect of this on file.

(2) (a) There was a first aid box stored in the secured storeroom.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and out of the reach of the children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no adult on site on the day of the inspection with up to date First aid training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All the staff have completed their first aid refresher training courses. A staff member has been assigned to check the expiry dates of the certifications each year.

Supporting documentation submitted

First aid responder certifications that are in date for 2 staff members who work in service each day.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

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) A written record for each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 10/05/'24.
 - (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 for the smoke alarm was 19/02/2024 and the record in respect of the firefighting equipment was 15/09/'23.