

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KY057

Name of Service: IRD Waterville Early Years Centre

Address of Service: Waterville Community Centre
Spunkane
Waterville
Co. Kerry

Email Address: irdwaterville@eircom.net

Name of Registered Service Provider: Pat Everett

Type of service registered: Full Day Care

Date(s) of Inspection: 0 2 1 2 2 0 2 0

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 30 PM 12

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency,
Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork

Inspection undertaken by : M Carney
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety
------------	---------------------------------	--------

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

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Description of Service	<p>IRD (Integrated Rural Development) Waterville Early Years Centre is a community based service operating from a municipal hall situated in the coastal village of Waterville. It provides an Early Years Care and Education programme for children aged less than 1 year to school age on a full day care, part time or sessional basis. It operates from 08:30am to 18:00pm.</p> <p>The school age facility is not current operating.</p> <p>The service provides a large hall, a playroom, a crèche room, toilet facilities, sleep room and kitchen and storage rooms.</p> <p>The children have access to and many outdoor play spaces.</p> <p>The community hall parking area has generous space for the safe arrival and departure of the children to the service.</p>
Staffing	<p>The Registered Provider does not work with the children. There were 8 child care professionals working directly with the children on the day of the Inspection.</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. However, scope of the Inspection allowed for review of all the care rooms.</p> <p>The Inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including: clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.</p> <p>The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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.
- (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;

Compliance Information:

Documentation received prior to the on-site inspection revealed that there was 1 new member of staff employed since the previous Inspection in March 2019. Their personal file provided the following information –

- (2)
 - (a) There was 1 validated written past employer reference on file dated October 2020.
 - (b) There was 1 validated written reference on file which the Registered Provider considered to be from a reputable source, dated October 2020.
 - (c) There was an up to date Garda vetting disclosures on file, also dated October 2020.
 - (d) Police vetting was not required as the adult had not lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period of 6 consecutive months.
- (7)
 - (a) Pre-inspection requested documentation in relation to COVID-19 staff training was forwarded to the Early Years Office in advance of the visit by the manager. It was closely studied and found to be satisfactory; it detailed that each adult had completed or received certified training, for example -
 - Self-Assessment Practice Checklist
 - Induction training and Incident Plan

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- Infection Control training incorporating enhanced cleaning practices.
- Familiarised with the new arrival departure procedures.
- How to set up a play environment and how to use personal protective equipment.
- Hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Lead worker representative.

Training had been conducted via digital platform and during physical socially distanced meetings.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:

Revised and up-dated written policies and procedures which reflected the changes in practice due to COVID-19 were submitted for perusal to the Early Years Office prior to the onsite inspection, they included -

- An Infection Control Policy which stated for example the need for children and staff to hand wash regularly, reduce the items carried from home to school and to maintain waterproof clothing and boots on the premises.
- A Risk Assessment Policy which had been updated and incorporated the steps that are to be followed in the service to reduce and eliminate possible COVID-19 for example, ensuring that the return to childcare questionnaire had been completed, consent for the recoding of children's temperatures had been obtained and parents were familiar with the revised arrival and departure arrangements.
- An Incident Plan which included for example, details of how the staff members would manage a suspected case of COVID-19. It also provided details of the designated isolation room, the availability and correct use of personal protective equipment and clearly stated notification details of notification to the Agency.

The drafted revised policies and procedures had been communicated to the parents and guardians for example via letter prior to their children's return to 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:	<p>(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.</p> <p>(2) There were 30 children in total present within in 3 pods as detailed below –</p> <p>Little Rascals had 2 children in attendance on a full day care basis under the age of 2 years with 2 adults in attendance.</p> <p>Dinosaurs had 10 children attending on a full day care basis aged 2 to 4 years with 2 adults in attendance.</p> <p>Caterpillars had 18 children attending on a sessional basis with 3 adults in attendance. The adult child ratios were correct in each care room.</p>
-------------------------	--

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

Compliance Information:	<p>(1)(a) The Registered Provider had ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was being maintained as observed by the following observations and conversations with staff members –</p> <p>SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the adults in Waterville Early Years Centre had worked in the setting for a long period and were well acquainted with the children and their families, they were observed to be kind, patient and caring. • Children were tended to in a quiet and unobtrusive manner as demonstrated during toileting and hand washing, overseeing the preparations for the snack, assisting with dressing for the outdoor play area and organizing the children's home time. • Children were afforded patience and positive reinforcement for completing tasks independently, for example the removal of waterproofs and boots and correctly storing them after outdoor play. • One to one engagement was observed in Little Rascals when a table top activity was enjoyed during the crafting of Christmas decorations.
-------------------------	--

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The children were familiar with the routine and played happily; this was observed during the extended outdoor play in order to take advantage of the dry, bright weather.
- Parents and guardians were communicated by hard copy, group text and staff utilising a digital application.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service had been reconfigured to provide 3 pods –

- Little Rascals provided a crèche facility; the room was spacious, clean and well maintained.
- It was furnished with age appropriate play materials and resources such as the play kitchen, fine motor skill table top equipment and musical instruments. They were clean and well maintained.
- There was a cordoned off area for non-ambulant children which was appropriately resourced with materials such as activity centres and sound making apparatus.
- There was a designated rest area which had books strategically placed for the children's amusement.
- There was a staff seat for nurturing and comforting children.
- There were low tables and chairs for the children to enjoy table top activities.
- There were 3 high chairs which were well maintained.
- Children attending this room had direct access to a separate sleep room.
- There was a compact toilet facility and nappy changing room with a brightly painted wall mural depicting an underwater scene.
- Staff members had direct access to the kitchen and fridge where the children's bottles and food requirements were stored.
- The children had access to a small compact secured outdoor play area which was equipped with a wide range of gross motor skill play materials such as, low slides, play house, cars and sand play. This area had recently been renovated and the walls displayed features such as the stone mural.
- There were 2 buggies available for the non-ambulant children to enjoy the outdoor spaces also.
- Dinosaurs and Caterpillars accommodated the older children which were situated in the classroom and large hall. Both pods were suitably separated by low mobile conjoined barriers. The areas were clean and well maintained with suitable natural ventilation.
- Both play areas were well equipped with age appropriate play resources, such as the play kitchen, construction area and arts and crafts.
- The classroom and hall was furnished with a sufficient number of child sized tables and chairs and low mobile open display units.
- The children had access to a large outdoor playground which provided many

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

gross motor skill attractions such as the swings, climbing frame, see-saws and wall activities such as, 'make me rain' and the curved mirror feature. In conversation with the manager it was stated that as the children spent optimal time in the grounds, recently acquired funds would allow for the purchase and development of adjacent land to be developed into a sensory garden. It was noted that the children heartily enjoyed the experiences the outdoors offered.

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:

During the Inspection, safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the children were assessed through observation and conversations with staff members as detailed below –

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The staff members were responsible for the cleaning of the premises and it was found to be visually clean and well maintained.
- Sanitising hand units were placed at throughout and at the entrances.
- Visitor details were recorded for the ease of detection in the case of an outbreak of infection. Temperatures were also recorded.
- Floor markers had been installed to remind staff and parents to social distance.
- Play equipment, toys and resources were also clean and in a good state of repair. Dress up items was washed weekly.
- Little Rascals had designated a large bowl for the frequent washing of mouthed toys.
- A staff member confidently explained the process of the washing and stowing dummies.
- The children's tables were sanitised after each activity and prior to lunch.
- There were a sufficient number of toilet stalls and wash hand basins in the service for the number of children attending; they were clean and well maintained. There were generous supplies of toilet tissue.
- There was thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- There were 2 nappy changing units in the service. Single use aprons were available and air tight bins for the safe disposal of soiled nappies.
- There was a generous supply of protective gloves for staff use.
- There was individual cubby space for the children's labelled toiletries such as nappies and barrier creams.
- Hand washing posters were intentionally placed to remind the children to hand wash.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- The adults had a separate toilet facility which was clean and well maintained.
- There were lidded non- contact bins for the safe disposal of rubbish.
- There were tissues available for the children to use for nasal hygiene.
- It was observed that the children and adults practised regular hand washing routine.
- In conversation with the adults it was established that they were familiar with the procedures that were in place on how to manage a child or adult with suspected COVID-19 illness. The manager's office was designated as the isolation room which was furnished in readiness with the correct personal protective equipment.

SAFE SLEEP:

- A separate sleep room was situated within the Little Rascals crèche room. It was furnished with 2 standard cots which were clean and well maintained. They were equipped with well fitted sheets and mattresses.
- The ambient room temperature of the room was recorded at 18 degrees Celsius.
- In conversation with the room leader it was stated that 10 minute sleep checks were conducted on the sleeping children to monitor, colour, breathing and position.
- Each child had their own bedding and linen stored in separate labelled bags. The laundry procedures of cot bedding, cleaning of cots and mattresses were detailed confidently by a staff member and found to be satisfactory
- Children over the age of 2 years attending the service that required a sleep were offered low beds for rest and relaxation.

GENERAL SAFETY

- Each play area had their own entrance and these were secured with digital entry systems in place so as to prevent unauthorised persons and to prevent a child from accessing the main road.
- The internal doors were suitably secured such as the door to the manager's room and the kitchen.
- Cables and leads were concealed.
- Units were suitably anchored to the walls to prevent falling on to the
- Cleaning products were safely stored out of reach of the children
- Nappy bags and cleaning products in the nappy changing area were placed on a high shelf out of the reach of the children.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 22: Food and Drink

22. A Registered Provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>The children attending the service on a sessional basis where provided with inadequate lunches. In conversation with the manager it was stated that due to the pandemic the service had decided to provide the sessional children with their dietary needs in order to reduce the disposal of plastic bags. It was observed that on the day of the Inspection only an orange and a cracker were given to each child. Children attending up to 3.5 hours should be offered 1 meal and 1 snack. The meal must include an appropriate serving of protein, starch, dairy and fruit or vegetables.</p>
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION & PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The Registered Provider stated that additional items such as protein will be given to the children attending the service on a sessional basis.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> An up-dated Healthy Eating Policy</p>
<p>Summary Comment</p>	<p>The Registered Provider submitted a completed CAPA and associated documentation to the Early Years Office on the 22 December. It was examined and found to satisfactorily meet the Requirements of Regulation 22 Food and Drink.</p>