

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KY060

Name of Service: Kilflynn Preschool and Afterschool Club

Address of Service: Castletown, Kilflynn, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Email Address: murphydeirdre7@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Deirdre Herbert

Type of service registered: **Sessional**

Date(s) of Inspection: 2 8 0 4 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 11 **PM**

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Áras An Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Inspection undertaken by : N. Reidy
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

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| Governance | Health, Welfare and Development | Safety |
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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 | <p>This Sessional service is located in a rural setting. There were 11 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8.40 am and 12pm. A registered school age service is also provided. The premise is a detached single storey building with 1 playroom located on the site of the registered provider's private residence.</p> |
| Staffing | <p>There were 2 adults present on the day of inspection, one of whom was the registered provider. The 2 adults were working directly with the children.</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. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| Acknowledgements | <p>The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, the staff member 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:

- (2)(a) 1 staff file was presented for inspection following confirmation with the registered provider that this staff member was employed since the last inspection. The second staff file was inspected on the last inspection. 2 written validated references were on file from a previous employer.
- (b) Not applicable as both references on file were from a previous employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for the 1 adult.
- (d) Not applicable as the adult had not resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months
- (7)(a) The person in charge informed the inspector that the policies and procedures were communicated to the staff member working in the service prior to the service re-opening.

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:

- The inspection focused on the following policies and procedures of the service which had been devised to respond to COVID-19, they were deemed to meet the requirements: -
- Risk Management
 - Infection Control
 - Drop off and collection procedures
 - Correct hand washing procedures
- The said policies and procedures were communicated to the staff member prior to the service re-opened.

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:

- (1) There were 2 adults working with 11 children aged between 2 years 11 months and 5 years attending on a sessional basis throughout the period of the inspection.
The adult child ratio was correct.
- (3) The minimum number of adults was maintained.
- (8)(c) 2 adults are working in the service on a daily basis.

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:

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The designated person in charge informed the inspector that allocated drop off and collection times are in place for the children attending, she meets and greets the children and the parents/guardians at the entrance door on arrival to the centre, the second staff member then accompanies the child into the playroom helping them with taking off their coats, putting away their lunch and supervising hand washing.
- Information and posters were displayed on the entrance door to the premise and within the room to promote children, parents/guardians and staff to practice effective hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing in response to COVID-19.
- Hand washing signs were situated at children's eye level near the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation.
- The adults caring for the children on the day of the inspection were observed to be kind, caring and understanding of individual children's needs. The adults facilitated children when they picked up on individual cues that included for example when children who were tired and wanted

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

to opt out of a particular activity or children who wanted to change from playing outdoors to indoors and vice versa and were facilitated to do so.

- A colourful display of the children's family photographs, some children's art work and the children's individual learning journals were displayed in the playroom.
- The registered provider communicated with parents per phone, by email, 'Whats App' and by text.
- An enclosed notice board was in place outside the entrance door as a further measure to communicate with parents in response to COVID-19.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playroom was bright, airy and colourfully decorated with some of the children's art work and areas designated for family photographs.
- Low level shelving was provided to facilitate easy access for the children to the materials and equipment provided.
- The various play materials included for example a selection of books, blocks, small animals, small houses with associated figures, train tracks, various vehicles, chalk boards and chinks, a tool box, puzzles, dolls and a dolls bath and arts and crafts supplies.
- There was an adequate supply of child sized tables and chairs in the room.
- A designated outdoor play area was available and accessible to the children directly accessible from the playroom.
- Since the last inspection the registered provider had installed a covered pergola with a concrete surface and a further area that had a grassed surface with a fixed timber play unit, rocking horses, planting boxes for vegetables and fruits with associated garden utensils and a sand box with various toys for playing with the sand. A fixed swing set was in place in the grassed area, however the swings were disassembled, the registered provider informed the inspector she was waiting to have it repaired.

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 to the building was locked with the key stored on a high hook out of the reach of the children.
- The designated outdoor play area was secured by fencing and walls, the 2 gates present were secured.
- Safe storage was provided for cleaning agents on the day of the inspection.
- A record of visitors to the centre was maintained and a record of the daily attendance for the children and adults including the arrival and departure times was recorded.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

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| | <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The play equipment, materials and furnishings observed on the day of inspection appeared to be clean. Cleaning schedules to respond to COVID-19 were completed. • A labelled box for mouthed toys was stored on the sink in the playroom they were cleaned at the end of the session. • Children’s perishable food items provided by the parents were stored hygienically in the designated fridge in the playroom. • Children’s drinks bottles were individually labelled and stored on a low level shelf for easy access throughout the session. • Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and a supply of paper hand towels to ensure effective hand washing by the staff and the children. • Pedal operated lidded bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of waste in the playroom and in the sanitary accommodation. • A supply of hand sanitiser was provided outside the main entrance door and inside in the room on a high level shelf. • The tables were cleaned prior to children having their snack. • Disposable tissues were available and accessible to the children in the playroom. • Children were observed washing their hands during the session supervised by the adults for example after using the toilet, after playing outside and prior to having their lunch. <p>SAFE SLEEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not applicable as the service operates as a sessional basis. |
| <p>Non-Compliance Information:</p> | <p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <p>1. Within the outdoor play area the timber playhouse with a slide was located on a grass surface with the exception of the 5 stepper timber ladder used to climb up to the playhouse and the slide. The ladder was at the verge of the grass/concrete footpath margin with a concrete wall behind it posing a risk of injury to children should they fall off the ladder.</p> |
| <p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p> | <p>The registered provider stated that:-</p> <p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>GENERAL SAFETY: The timber playhouse was taken down.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The timber playhouse was taken down.</p> <p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> A photograph of the outdoor area that demonstrated the playhouse was removed.</p> |
| <p>Summary Comment:</p> | <p>The non-compliance has been rectified therefore the requirement has been met</p> |