

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY062				
Name of Service:	Killorglin Family Resource Centre / Laune Childcare Service				
Address of Service:	Killorglin Family Resource Centre, 39 Iveragh Park, Killorglin, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V93 VR96				
Name of Registered Provider:	Eileen Quirke				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	26/11/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td>07</td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM	07
AM	11	PM	07		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Aras an Phobail, 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

Killorglin Family Resource Centre/Laune Childcare Service is a community based early years service registered to provide full day care, part- time care and sessional care to children aged from 2 to 6 years. Currently the service caters for children aged 3 years to 5 years. The service is registered as operating between the hours of 8:30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday inclusive. Currently the hours of operation are between 8:30 am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday. A school aged service is also provided in the building. The service operates from a detached purpose- built premise within the Killorglin Family Resource Centre. There are 2 playrooms namely the Pre-school room and the Hub room each with adjacent sanitary facilities. Currently the Pre-school room only is in operation. There is a fully enclosed outdoor facility available to the children each day as well as a sheltered area attached to the pre-school room.

Staffing

There are currently 8 adults attached to the service, that includes the registered provider who works in the service and 2 students on placement.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there are 2 named staff to deputise as required.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the registered provider was on duty to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 8 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) Of the 16 references required, there were 6 references from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 16 references required, there were 6 references from a source other than a previous employer with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 7 adults. Garda vetting was not required for the 1 student who was under 18 years.
- (d) Not applicable as the adults had not resided outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for greater than six consecutive months.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (a) & (b)
- 4 references with records of validation were not on file in respect of 2 adults.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The 4 references for the 2 students were sought and validated. All the students and volunteers must complete all the details requested and submit the required documentation including the 2 references before any work placements are secured.

Supporting documentation submitted

The required 4 references with records of validation.

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.

(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 staff working with the children at all times on the day of the inspection.

(2) There were 2 adults working with 11 children aged between 3 and 5 years, 6 children attending on a part-time basis and 4 children attending on a full day care basis.

The minimum number of adults was maintained on the day of the inspection.

(8) (a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises.

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)

Basic Needs: -

- The children were observed to independently access the toilets located in the playroom with staff assistance available.
- The children's individual toileting needs were accommodated for example children who were potty training.
- There was picture cards displayed at children's eye level in the sanitary accommodation for each stage of using the toilet and for each stage of hand washing.
- The parents of the children attending provide the morning snack with the service offering a main hot meal and the food for the afternoon snack.
- The food observed on inspection included sandwiches and fruit for the morning snack and for the main meal was mango chicken curry and rice with milk and water offered.
- The children had unlimited access to water during the day, there was a designated water station with a water dispenser accessible in the room.
- The staff informed and demonstrated to the inspector records for the children's likes and dislikes for the food supplied by the service for the main hot meal to inform planning the daily menus.
- The staff informed the inspector that they are review and plan the menus in line with the Nutrition Standards for Early Learning and care Services.
- The main meal observed was taken at the low-level tables that were set out with cutlery, napkins, cups and plates. The tables were covered with vinyl tablecloths and little vases of flowers.
- The staff members sat at the tables during the mealtime assisting the children with eating and serving/refilling their drinks.
- Conversations between the staff and the children ensued, the staff issued gentle reminders to children to practice their manners.
- The children who finished before the others were observed to play with their toys of choice, with some children observed looked at the family album folder kept in the book area/rest area.
- The children had access to a designated rest area in the care room. The area was furnished with cushions, bean bags and a large rug on the floor. In addition, there were low level beds with associated linen available for the children if needed.

- The children were observed to be appropriately dressed for their time spent in the outdoors on inspection. They had coats with hoods, hats and wellingtons.
- The children were observed to enjoy free movement within the care room during the inspection.

Physical and Material Environment: -

- The playroom had open low-level shelving resourced with a variety of play equipment and materials, additional toys were on the floor enabling children to independently access them
- The walls were decorated with a selection of the children’s artwork for example rocket ships, the children’s birthday dates, a selection of educational posters and picture cards demonstrating the children’s daily routine in the service, it was displayed at their eye level.
- The outdoor play area used during the inspection was the large area with the planting boxes, fixed furniture and play items in place on a soft matting, seating for the children and a spacious covered wooden “stage unit”.
- There was a selection of toys stored in storage units that were taken out for the children to use, for example, the bikes.
- Children were observed playing chasing games, looking for snails with the magnifying glasses, walking a bridge created to link with a puddle of water that the children jumped into.

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 doors were appropriately secured where necessary to prevent children from accessing unsafe areas.
- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children exiting unsupervised.
- The external doors were secured to restrict unauthorised access.
- The cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of the children on high level shelving.
- There was a record kept on the front of the First aid box that demonstrated the contents of the box was checked each month.

Infection Control:

- There was a supply of warm water with the temperature recorded under the required 43 degrees Celsius, liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal bins at each of the sinks in the sanitary

accommodation and at the sink in the pre-school room to facilitate effective hand washing by the children and the adults.

- Hand washing by the children was carried after using the toilet, with the staff available nearby to supervise and assist them as was needed.
- The sanitary accommodation was ventilated by means of openable windows.
- The tables were cleaned down after each meal and after messy play activities.
- The potty in place in the children's toilet was clean and dry.
- The perishable food items were stored in sealed labelled bags in the fridge in the care room.

Fire Safety:

- Records on the wall of the pre-school room demonstrated that fire drills were conducted on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A shelving unit located in the pre-school was not secured to the wall, posing a risk of injury to children.
2. Within the outdoor play area, there was a section of a timber planter and a section of a timber seat with loose timber splinters posing a risk of injury to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The shelving unit has been securely attached to the wall. Any furniture that is moved or relocated must be risk assessed.
2. Repairs have been made to the timber planter and seat to make them safe. A plan to examine how best to maintain and prevent weathering of the timber structures will be investigated.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the secured unit.
2. A photograph of the repaired planter and the repaired bench.

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.

(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 in-date certifications for First Aid Responder (FAR) training were furnished to the inspectors to evidence that 5 staff members had completed the (FAR) training.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box provided for the children in the service, it was stored on a high-level the pre-school room.

(b) The suitably equipped first aid box was available to the children in the service at all times.