

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY064				
Name of Service:	Listowel Family Resource Centre				
Address of Service:	Ballygologue, John B Keane Road, Listowel, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V31 EC62				
Name of Registered Provider:	Henrique De Lima				
Service type:	Full Day				
Date(s) of Inspection:	08/08/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>10</td> <td>PM</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>	AM	10	PM	6
AM	10	PM	6		
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

Listowel Family resource Centre is a purpose-built community based early years service that is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 8:45 am and 5.30 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service consists of 3 playrooms located on the ground floor and a designated enclosed outdoor play area directly accessible and allocated to the playrooms in operation on the day of the inspection.

Staffing

There are 15 adults employed in the service of whom 14 are qualified to work directly with the children. The registered provider 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/premises and facilities.

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

(2) The person in charge confirmed that 15 adults were employed in the service, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 15 adults were reviewed.

(a) 18 written validated references were on file from a past employer.

(b) 12 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 15 adults.

(d) Police Vetting was on file for 1 adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 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) The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

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

Creche

There were 3 staff members caring for 6 children aged between 20 months and 3 years, 3 children attending on a sessional basis and 3 children attending on a full day care basis.

Senior pre-school room

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

The adult child ratio was correct.

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

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 meals served are no more than 3 hours apart.
- Water and milk are the 2 main drinks encouraged and provided for the children attending. The Children's individually labelled cups and bottles were accessible to them throughout the session.
- Children's individual dietary and eating requirements were met.
- Additional portions of the main meal were offered to the children. The main meal served was chicken goujons, mashed potato, green beans, cauliflower and gravy.
- The inspector observed the staff encouraged and supported the children to feed themselves independently, according to their age and stage of development.
- Nappy changing took place as was necessary and in a timely manner.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the playrooms.
- The children attending were observed to have opportunities to move about freely both in the playrooms and in the designated outdoor areas. The children played with the toys provided that were within easy reach on open low level shelving, on the floor in the playrooms.
- The staff caring for the children were kind, caring and understanding of the children's individual needs.

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 and external doors and gates were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the building unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premise.
- All cleaning agents observed on inspection were stored out of the reach of the children.
- The emergency exit/fire doors were unobstructed.
- Cables observed were out of the reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Children's soothers were stored in clean, dry lidded and individually labelled containers.
- The children were observed washing their hands for example, after playing in the outdoor area with the staff assisting and supporting the children as was needed.
- The linen used for the cots was individual to each child and was stored in a clean and hygienic manner.

Safe Sleep:

- The air temperature of the sleep room was recorded at 20.8 degrees Celsius.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The timber base of the bus in the outdoor play area had loose splinters, posing a risk of injury to children.

Safe Sleep:

2. The staff informed the inspector that 7-minute physical checks are conducted on children who sleep and a record of the position, colour and breathing kept. However, the inspector observed the records were not maintained for the child who slept during the inspection. At 2.35pm in the creche, the sleep records demonstrated the most recent written record was 2.07pm for 1 child who was sleeping. The staff informed the inspector they had carried out the physical checks at 7-minute intervals but did not have the time to record same.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The timber bus in the outdoor area has been removed. When the said piece will be replaced, the service will ensure that it will not pose a safety risk to children by checking it weekly. Any outdoor equipment that is in disrepair will be removed and replaced.

Safe Sleep:

2. There is a new sleep record book in place and in use. All the staff have been informed of the new sleep provision policy for children, signs have been added inside and outside the door of the sleep room reminding staff of the 10-minute checks and to record the check immediately.

During staff team meetings, we will discuss sleep provision for children in the creche and review procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A photograph of the outdoor area where the timber bus was removed.

Safe Sleep:

2. The statement is accepted as evidence as well as a photograph of the sign reminder for staff in respect of the 10-minute checks and recording of same. displayed on the sleep room door.

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) 3 adults present had current First Aid Responder training with the certifications on file.

(2)

(a) Adequately equipped first aid boxes were maintained in each of the playrooms inspected, each stored on a high-level shelf in the kitchenette in the creche and on a high-level shelf in the Senior pre-school room.

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

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 that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 24/07/2023.

(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 for the smoke alarm was 03/01/2023 and the firefighting equipment was December 2022.

(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

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 51 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 06/06/'24

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

(b) safe and secure,

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(b)The premise was observed to be safe and secure.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)1. Within the outdoor play area, a number of low-level tables were rusted, the side panel of a timber kitchen unit was not intact and the concrete slabbed areas were unclean.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d)

1. The outdoor tables that were rusted have been removed, the timber kitchen has also been removed. The concrete slabs have been weeded and cleaned.

All outdoor equipment has been added to weekly equipment checks. Staff will ensure that these are completed, and equipment is removed and replaced if found to be in disrepair. The weeding and cleaning of the outdoor area has been added to the caretakers weekly list. Staff will report any maintenance issues as they arise to the children's centre co-ordinator.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the outdoor area without the tables and timber kitchen and of the cleaned concrete slabs.

Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.