

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY110
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Name of Service:	Scartaglen Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	2 Cnoc Na Run, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 FV06
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noreen Keane
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	15/05/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	25
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

Scartaglen Childcare Centre is a 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 8:00 am and 5:45 pm Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from a 2 storey purpose built facility consisting of 3 playrooms on the ground floor and 2 playrooms on the 1st floor. There is a designated enclosed outdoor play area available each day to the children attending.

Staffing

There are 10 adults employed to work with the children including the registered provider who works each day in the service on administrative duties and with the children. There is 1 adult employed for cleaning the premises and 1 adult for administration.

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*.

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, deputy 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.

(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

(1) (a) The designated person in charge is the registered provider there is a named deputy.

- (b) At all times during the period when the preschool service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.

(2) The registered provider confirmed that 4 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 09/11/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 4 adults were reviewed.

- (a) 7 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 1 written validated reference was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 4 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as the 4 adults in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in respect of the 4 adults as outlined above prior to they were 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) The 5 playrooms were in operation on the day of the inspection.

Baby room

There was 1 staff member caring for 3 children aged between 6 months and 2 years ,1 child attending a part time basis and 2 children attending on a full day care basis.

Toddler room downstairs

There were 2 staff caring for 6 children aged between 1 and 2 years, 1 child attending on a part-time basis and 5 children were attending on a full day care basis.

Pre-school room downstairs

There were 2 staff caring for 18 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, 10 children were attending on a sessional basis, 3 children were attending on a part-time basis and 45children attending on a full day care basis.

Pre-school room upstairs

There was 1 staff member caring for 11 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, 7 children attending on a sessional basis, 2 children on a part-time basis and 2 children on a full day care basis.

Toddler room upstairs

There were 2 staff caring for 8 children aged between 2 years and 4 years, 1 child attending on a sessional basis,3 children on a part-time basis and 4 children on a full day care 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 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.*

Compliance Information

(1) The 19 records inspected had all the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

The following records were kept:

- (h) details of attendance by a child on a daily basis.
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.
- (j) details of any medication administered to a child attending the service with signed parental consent;
- (k) details of any accident, injury and incident involving a child attending the service.

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

Basic Needs

- The service provides the main hot meal cooked in the kitchen by the registered provider each day.
- A weekly menu was available and provided to the parents.
- The main meals are cooked and plated in the kitchen and distributed to each of the care rooms where the staff serve it to the children.
- The food for the snack times is supplied by the parents of the children attending.

- A rolling snack time was introduced in the pre-school rooms since the last inspection allowing children to eat when they feel the need during the session. This was observed in practice on inspection and the staff explained to the inspector how well it is working for the children.
- The inspector observed that at mealtimes the children were given ample time to eat without being rushed in an atmosphere that was relaxed and conversations between the children and the adults caring for them.
- The staff assisted the children to decide what food items they wished to keep for the next snack time.
- The staff sat with the children assisted and assisted feeding the younger children as was required.
- Feeding chairs, both high and low level, were provided for the younger children at mealtimes and the older children sat on the low-level chairs at the low-level tables at mealtimes.
- The food served for the main meal was turkey burgers, vegetables and mashed potatoes and for snack time was yogurts, crackers, cheese, sandwiches and bananas.
- The staff recognised the children's individual cues of tiredness when indicated the need for rest and sleep.
- On speaking to the staff, they informed the inspector they work in partnership with the parents in relation to the children's individual sleep patterns and needs.
- Children enjoyed free movement in the playrooms and in the allocated outdoor play space.
- Children had unrestricted access to the toilets that were located adjacent to the playrooms. The inspector observed the staff were available to assist the children if needed and reminded children to wash their hands.
- Nappy changing was carried out in a timely manner as needed during the day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night..

Compliance Information

There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the downstairs Toddler room. There were 3 standard cots provided in the room.

There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the baby room with 3 standard cots provided in the room. There was a system in place for the rotational use of cots.

Low level beds with appropriate linen were available for the older children who required to rest or sleep. On the day of the inspection children were observed using the sleep room facilities as children required a rest or sleep.

Designated rest areas were provided in each of the playrooms that consisted of soft matting, cushions and comfortable colourful low-level couches.

All sleep and rest facilities were appropriate for meeting the needs for children attending in a full day care service on the day of the inspection.

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 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.
- The kitchen door was secure ,inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels provided at the wash hand basins to facilitate effective handwashing by the children and by the adults.
- Children’s soothers were hygienically stored in individually labelled clean containers.

- Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet, after playing outdoors and prior to mealtimes.
- Fridges were allocated to each of the care rooms for the hygienic storage of children's perishable food.

Safe Sleep:

- The 10-minute sleep checks recorded the position, colour and breathing pattern of the sleeping were recorded electronically.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A contact film covering the top and bottom of each of the 6 cots was peeling off, posing a risk to children of choking on the small pieces.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that: -

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. All the contact has been removed from each of the cots and cot is cleaned after use. New cots have been sourced and costed. To commence, 2 cots will be replaced, and it is hoped that all 6 cots will be replaced within a 6-to-12-month period following 2 fund raisers.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

The statement is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the 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) 4 adults present had current First Aid Responder training with the certifications on file.

(2)

(a) An adequately equipped first aid box was maintained in the entrance reception area and in the pre-school room upstairs.

(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 had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 05/04/2023.

(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 on the fire extinguishers was 30/09/2022 and the smoke alarm was 14/02/2023.

(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

A copy of 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 67 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(a) The building visually appeared to be sound and stable.

(d) The registered provider informed the inspector that the building was painted on the outside and some of the playrooms. The service currently planning to revamp the grassed planting area to the side of the building.

(e) A spacious nappy changing unit with steps was installed in the sanitary accommodation serving the upstairs Toddler room. It was observed in use for the 8 children attending on the day of the inspection.