

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY115				
Name of Service:	St. Brigid's Pre-school Crèche				
Address of Service:	Hawley Park, Tralee, Co. Kerry				
Eircode:	V92 WY6Y				
Name of Registered Provider:	Angela Walsh				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	18/06/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>46</td> <td>PM</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </table>	AM	46	PM	21
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This community based early years service is registered to provide sessional, part-time and full day care to children aged between 0 and 6 years, the service is currently catering for children aged between the age of 1 year and 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 8:30 am and 6pm.

There are 4 care rooms in operation on the ground floor of the building. The children attending have access to enclosed outdoor play areas each day.

Staffing

There are currently 17 adults attached to the early years service, 14 of whom are involved in the direct care of the children. This includes 5 Community Employment (CE) participants. The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with the children who attend the setting.

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 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 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 had ensured that both a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge was assigned to the setting.
 - (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service. The person in charge remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 1 adult who was employed since the last inspection on 23/10/2023 were inspected together with Garda vetting disclosures in respect of 10 adults who required renewal of the Garda vetting since the last inspection.
- (a) Not applicable as the references on file were from a source other than a previous employer.
 - (b) 2 validated references from a source other than previous employers were on file.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 11 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice in respect of 9 adults, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) Police vetting was on file for the 1 adult who has resided outside of the jurisdiction.
- (4) 12 of the staff members 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 maintained on file.

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) Baby/Wobbler Room

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

Crèche Room

There were 2 staff caring for 11 children aged between 2 and 3 years, 1 child was attending on a sessional basis and 10 children were attending on a part-time and full day care basis.

Preschool Room 1

There were 2 staff caring for 18 children aged between 3 years and 5 years, 6 children attending on a sessional basis and 12 children attending on a part-time basis and full day care basis.

Pre-school room 2

There were 3 staff caring for 12 children aged between 3 years and 4 years, 5 children were attending on a sessional basis and 7 children were attending on a part-time basis.

(2) The minimum number of adults was maintained. The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a)

The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation as evidenced in the staff roster.

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

(1)

- (h) The details of the children’s daily attendance were recorded in each of the childcare rooms.
- (i) Details of staff rosters on a daily basis was maintained including staff cover for break times.
- (j) Records were maintained of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service.
- (k) Records were maintained of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (j) Some records inspected did not have signed parental consent for medication administered to children.
- (k) Some of the records in respect of accidents involving children did not have parental signatures.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (j) A meeting was held with staff, the person responsible for filling in the administration of medication form is to ensure that it is signed for by the parent. If the said staff member leaves for a break or has finished their working day the form will be passed on to another staff member for the parent to sign.
- (k) A meeting was held with staff, the person who witnessed the accident is responsible for writing up the form and to ensure that parent signs it. If the said staff member leaves for a break or has finished their working day the form will be passed on to another staff member for the parent to sign.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence received.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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 staff supported children with toileting and nappies were changed as needed.
- Sleep and rest were facilitated during the day for the children attending the baby room and the creche.
- Rest areas were provided in each of the care rooms consisting of soft matting, soft seating, cushions and blankets. The older children were observed resting in the areas during the day.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement within each of the care rooms.
- The children had access to the toys positioned on low level open shelving and on the floor in the rooms.
- All children attending availed of time in the designated outdoor play areas during the day.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and attentive towards the needs of the children in their care. The inspector observed the staff held the children whilst sitting on the adult seating to comfort and re-assure them as was needed.

Physical and Material environment

- Each of the 4 care rooms had a variety of play equipment and materials that were age appropriate for the children.
- There was a variety of tabletop activities such as shape sorters, jigsaws, blocks, dress-up costumes, play kitchens with associated utensils, car stations, small animals, playdough, shapes and rolling pins, dolls and buggies.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

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.

Compliance Information

- The parents of the children attending provide some of the food consumed on the premise and the service provide the main hot meal prepared and cooked each day in the kitchen by an allocated staff member. The main meal is offered to all the children attending on a part-time full day care basis. A weekly menu is supplied to the parents.
- The service provides some of the snack's served to the children. There was a stock of breakfast cereals, crackers, cheese, bread and a variety of fresh fruit. Milk and water are the 2 main drinks offered to the children.
- The food observed on inspection included breakfast cereal, rice, yogurt, a selection of fruit, of vegetables, crackers and the main hot meal was spaghetti Bolognese. Additional food is offered to the children as needed.
- The meals and snacks observed were of appropriate texture for the younger children.
- There were fridges attached to each of the care rooms for the storage of the children's perishable food items.
- The children's re-fillable drinks bottles were stored within easy reach and the inspector observed the children helping themselves during the day.

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 entrance doors to the care rooms were secure with a buzzer entry system in place to prevent children leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access in.
- The kitchenettes in the baby room, in the creche room and the main kitchen were secured.
- The emergency exit doors were observed to be unobstructed.
- The outdoor play area was secured with fencing, walls and gates.
- The cleaning products observed on inspection were stored out of the children's reach.

Infection Control:

- The children's toiletries observed were individually labelled.
- The staff members cleaned down the tables before and after snack time with an antibacterial solution.
- The nappy changing mats and surrounds were observed to be clean, intact and dry.
- There was an adequate supply of single use disposable gloves and plastic disposable aprons for nappy changing.
- The nappies were disposed of the sealed, lined pedal operated lidded bins.
- The linen used was individual to each child, linen observed on inspection was clean and dry.
- A supply of clean feeding bibs was used by the younger children at mealtimes.

Safe Sleep:

- The children that used the sleep facilities in the service were physically checked every 5 minutes with a record of the child's colour, position and breathing recorded. A record of the temperature of the sleep room was maintained. The temperature recorded in the sleep room servicing the baby room was 18.3 degrees Celsius and in the sleep room serving the creche was 18 degrees Celsius.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures were available for 11 adults. However, Garda vetting disclosures for 9 adults were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.
2. There were 4 broken horizontal bars on the cot labelled number 1 in the sleep room serving the baby room. This was reported to the person in charge who instructed the staff members to not use the cot for children requiring a sleep. The inspector the said cot would be removed and replaced without delay.
3. The toy kitchen in the baby room was broken posing a risk of injury to children.
4. The book "That is not my elephant" in use in the baby room had torn pieces posing a risk of children choking on the small pieces.
5. There were a number of erected play buggies stacked on top of other play items in the low-level sink in the creche, posing a risk of falling over on children causing injury.

6. The toilet seat in the girl's toilet serving pre-school room 1 was not secure posing a risk to children of falling off causing injury.
7. There were branches of bushes protruding through the metal railing in the secret garden posing a risk of injury to children should they come in contact with them while playing.
8. In the secret garden there was a timber slat at the bottom of the fence separating the concrete area from the grassed area with loose splinters posing a risk of injury to children.
9. Some low-level glazed panels in the baby room did not have visibility strips posing a risk to children of a collision injury.
10. There were spray bottles of sunscreen, packets of antibacterial wipes and a barrier cream accessible on the low-level shelf in the sanitary accommodation serving pre-school room 2 posing a risk of injury to children.
11. An unsecured metal grid was stored against the metal railing in the secret garden posing a risk of falling over on children causing injury.

Infection Control:

12. There was no warm water at the sinks in the nappy changing rooms and sanitary accommodation serving the creche and the baby room and at the sinks in the baby and creche care rooms and in the downstairs adult sanitary accommodation posing the risk of cross infection.
13. The mattress protector on the cot labelled number 3 was not clean which increased the risk of cross infection.
14. The pathways to the outdoor play areas were not clean with an accumulation of dust and leaves posing a risk of cross contamination.
15. Some of the children's re-fillable water bottles in the creche were not labelled posing a risk of cross contamination.
16. There was an unlabelled bottle of milk with an uncovered teat in the creche drinks basket posing a risk of cross contamination.
17. The green plastic sink in the play kitchen in the creche was not clean posing a risk of the spread of infection.
18. The base of the fire exit door and surrounding floor area in the creche was unclean posing a risk of spread of infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The staff files have been updated to identify staff that require their Garda vetting to be renewed. A Garda vetting reminder programme will be set up in the service. A total of 5 processed garda vetting disclosures have been returned.
2. The cot was and repaired by maintenance staff. It is now safe; it is back in the sleep room.
3. The play kitchen was fixed by maintenance staff.
4. All books that are torn to be discarded for safety reasons.
5. The play buggies were removed and stored in a low cupboard.
6. The toilet seat was fixed and is now safe and secure.
7. The bushes in the outside garden were cut back to ensure safety for the children playing.
8. The timber corner was cut, and new wood now covers that area that was a safety issue.
9. Visibility strips are on order and will be placed on all glass panels when received.
10. The items were removed to an area where children can't reach, on a high shelf.

A risk assessment of the rooms, equipment and play resources to be carried out and signed by the staff members.

11. The metal grid was removed from the garden immediately. A risk assessment for outdoor play areas, equipment and play resources to be completed by the staff.

Infection Control:

12. A plumber has rectified the problem, and the work is complete. A daily risk check is in place for staff to check the temperature of the water and if required to report to the person in charge.
13. The mattress protector was replaced. Additional waterproof mattress covers were purchased for individual children's use.
14. A meeting took place with the maintenance staff to ensure the pathways are brushed, powered hosed and kept clear of debris and the gardens are kept clear of weeds.
15. The service supply labels for staff to label all the children's bottles and beakers.
16. The staff will ask parents to supply bottles that have covers on them or replace them with beakers. The staff dealing with the children's bags are to ensure that all cups, bottles and containers are clean and safe.
17. The plastic sink was removed and washed in the dishwasher. The staff are to ensure that on arrival to the service in the morning that all areas are clean to remove items for sanitising as required.

18. The fire door was cleaned and disinfected. The maintenance staff to ensure that these areas are kept clean.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. The processed Garda vetting in respect of 5 adults. The statement and evidence in respect of the Garda vetting renewal pending for 2 adults and the statement in respect of 2 adults not deemed applicable for Garda vetting renewal.
2. A photograph of the repaired cot.
3. A photograph of the repaired toy kitchen.
4. The statement is accepted as evidence.
5. A photograph demonstrating the play buggies were removed.
6. A photograph of the repaired toilet seat.
7. A photograph of the outside garden area where the bushes were cut back.
8. A photograph of the repaired timber slat.
9. An invoice in respect of the “manifestation film” for the glass panels.
10. A photograph of the empty low-level shelf.
11. The statement is accepted as evidence.

Infection Control:

12. The invoice received in respect of the work carried out by the plumber on the warm water system and the statements provided.
13. The statement is accepted as evidence.
14. Photographs of the pathways that were cleaned.
15. The statement is accepted as evidence.
16. The statement is accepted as evidence.
17. A photograph of the cleaned sink.
18. A photograph of the fire exit door and floor area that was cleaned.

Summary Comment

The requirement 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

Click or tap here to enter text.

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certifications indicated that 4 staff members held current up to date training. The person in charge informed the inspector that 6 adults are scheduled to complete FAR training in August 2024.

(2) (a) There was a suitable equipped first aid box available to the children attending. The boxes were stored in wall mounted cabinets at a high level and on high level shelving out of the reach of the reach of the children.

(b) The first aid equipment was available to the children at all times.

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,

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 14/06/2024.