

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK016			
Name of Service:	Ballingarry Pre-School			
Address of Service:	Unit 3, The Spar, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick			
Eircode:	V92 Y973			
Name of Registered Provider:	Edel Curtis			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	10/05/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	5
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Office of Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, 2 nd floor, Henry St. Limerick.			
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan			
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

Ballingarry Pre-school is a sessional and part time childcare service providing care and education to children between the ages of 2 years and 6 years. It operates Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 2.00 pm.

The service operates from a single-story unit within a retail premises located in the village of Ballingarry in Co. Limerick. Indoors the children have access to 2 well-resourced preschool rooms. Outdoors the children have access to a well-resourced natural garden area.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service. A designated person in charge has been appointed to manage the day to day running of the facility. There are 5 additional adults employed to work at the service.

All adults who work in the facility hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 inspection 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 designated person in charge was available on the day of the inspection and there was a named person who could deputise if required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a) There were written validated references available in respect of 6 staff employed at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from an alternative source such as previous schools and colleges were provided.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for all staff members. All vetting was completed within the last 3 years.

(d) Not applicable.

(4) All staff members had the required qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) There was 1 adult employed at the service who did not have the required 2 written and validated references.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Two references were received and placed on file for the required staff member. Both were validated by the service manager.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were forwarded to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate for the required staff member.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non-compliance has been adequately addressed.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) The service operates a part time service from 09.00 to 14.00. On the day of the inspection there were 19 preschool children present in Preschool room 1 with 4 staff for the morning session and 11 preschool children present with 2 staff in Preschool room 2. The adult child ratio met the requirements of Regulation 11.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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) The management at the service ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and each staff working at the facility. This was available in the parent statement for the service.*
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility is registered to provide services to.*
- (c) Details of the adult: child ratios in the service.*
- (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service. This was clearly displayed on the wall of the preschool room.*
- (e) The facilities available.*
- (f) The opening hours and fees.*
- (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10. A summary of the policies were emailed to all parents at the beginning of the year.*
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.*
- (i) Staff rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection.*
- (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.*
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school 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, and

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS:

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and nutritious snacks were provided by the parents for the children each day. For children who stayed until 2pm each day a second healthy snack was provided when the morning sessional service was over. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times with each child's bottle of water accessible to them at all times both when indoors and outside.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located next to each preschool room. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to ensure hygienic washing of hands.

A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Wet suits and wellingtons were available for outdoor play.

Tissues and wipes were always accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in foot pedal operated lidded bins.

Children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. A well-resourced natural garden area provided the children with opportunities to enjoy lots of outdoor activities.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operated from 2 well-resourced rooms indoors. Both rooms were designed with a range of developmentally appropriate interest areas accessible for the children e.g. a construction area, home corner/ imagination play area with a large dolls house, a dress up corner, a hairdressing salon and a rest and relaxation reading corner with a large soft couch next to a book stand. There were lots of low-level tables and tuff trays which were used for messy play and art and craft activities. Materials required for colouring, for cutting and for painting were all accessible on open shelving within easy reach of the children.

The layout of the facility allowed easy supervision by adults of the children as they moved to the different areas within the 2 rooms.

Outdoors the children had access to a large natural garden area. In this space children could run, climb, plant, garden, dig and build and use their imagination to create lots of fun experiences. The outdoor space had a large wooden sheltered structure so children could spend long periods of time outside regardless of the weather conditions. Children enjoyed long periods outdoors on the day of the inspection.

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) There were staff on duty at all times who had completed First Aid Responder training.

(2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located in the service.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible if required.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a record in writing to demonstrate that monthly fire drills took place at the service. The most recent drill took place on the 25th of March 2024.

(b) There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of all fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the building.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 33 preschool children to attend the service at any one time. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2024 and is due to expired on the 27th of March 2025.