

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LK047

Name of Service: Clanmaurice Preschool

Address of Service: 1 Clanmaurice Gardens, Ennis Road, Limerick, Co. Limerick

Eircode: V94 WE54

Name of Registered Provider: Ruth O'Neill

Service type: Sessional

Date of Inspection: 17/06/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, 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

Clanmaurice Preschool is a privately owned sessional preschool service located in an urban area, on the outskirts of Limerick City. The service provides a morning sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday. On the day of the inspection there were 11 pre-school children present with 19 children on the register. The service can accommodate 22 pre-school children at any one time. The service operates from a well-resourced pre-school room adjacent to the registered providers' family home. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. Sanitary facilities are located next to the playroom.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge of operating the service. There is 1 additional staff employed to work at the school.

Both staff have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. Staff engage regularly in ongoing training and professional development.

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

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, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of operating the service and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if needed. A relief person was also available if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present on the premises. The staff roster indicated that a person in charge was available each day at the school.

Staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted,

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for both staff employed by the service and for the relief staff member.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from reputable sources available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed at the service.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any of the staff members at the service.

(4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of the inspection there were 11 pre-school children and 2 adults on the premises for the morning sessional service. The adult/child ratio was correct.
- (3) The written staff roster showed that the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at the service.

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) A sample of 8 children's enrolment forms were reviewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of the children.
- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.

- (c) Provision to record 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 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 received by the child.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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 registered provider 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 displayed on the notice board in the entrance hallway.*
- (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility 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) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10.*
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.*
- (i) Staff rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.*
- (j) The service had a medication administration recording template book available that was completed in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered.*
- (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service was recorded.*

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:

There was a Healthy eating policy in the service and parents provided a nutritious snack for the children to have each morning at the service. Childrens drinks were easily accessible to them throughout the day, when playing both indoors and outside.

Sanitary accommodation was located next to the preschool room and children were independently using the toilet facilities. Hot water, liquid soap and paper handtowels were provided to ensure hygienic hand washing. All waste was safely disposed of in foot pedal operated lidded bins. Protective clothing was available for children to use during messy play activities. Outdoor rain gear and wellingtons were also available. A change of clothes was kept in the service and was available for children if required.

Clearly labelled individual spaces for each child's belongings were available to support organised access and independence for all children attending the service.

Rest areas with comfortable seating, cushions and blankets were accessible in the room.

The children had regular change of environment. Children spend long periods of time in the outdoor playground at the rear of the premises.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The preschool room was a large well-resourced room which was clearly laid out to accommodate the needs of the children. Low level tables and chairs were available in many areas of the room for tabletop activities and for dining at snack time. A library area with a range of reading material next to a large comfortable couch provided a relaxation/rest space. Art and craft facilities were available with a painting easel, paint pots, brushes and aprons at hand to the children. Sand and water play were easily accessible. Lots of children's artwork and items of interest were displayed at children's eye level. Photographs showed many seasonal activities the children enjoyed throughout each term.

Children spend time outdoors where they had lots of space for active play time. Children had access to bikes, trikes, bubble cars and scooters. A basketball net was provided. Lots of pots were planted and children had opportunity for gardening activities, setting flowers and herbs. A recent family day was held at the service where parents got to enjoy outdoor activities with their children. An ice cream van visited the service to celebrate the occasion.

Children were supervised at all times while outside and the area was fully enclosed to ensure children's safety. A sheltered area was provided at the front of the premises where parents could drop and collect the children and where outdoor boots and wellingtons could be safely stored.

The indoor and the outdoor areas was continuously reviewed, changed, and enhanced to suit the children's ever-changing interests, capabilities and preferences, themes, and curriculum plans.

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 registered provider held the required certificate as a first aid responder. The certificate was in date up to 2025.

(2)(a) A first aid box stocked with all the necessary materials was stored in an easily accessible location in the preschool room.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children both when indoors and outdoors at the service.

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 of monthly fire drills that took place at the service. The most recent drill took place on the 27th of May 2024.
- (b) There was a record in place of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms systems.