

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK050
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Name of Service:	Clever Clogs Pre School
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Address of Service:	St Mary's Old National School, High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35 F990
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Name of Registered Provider:	David Moloney
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	09/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate Estuary House , Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne
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

This community operated service first notified in 2008. The service is registered to provide sessional care for children aged 2 – 6 years, Monday – Friday 09:00 – 12:00 for 38 weeks of the year, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for eligible children.

A school aged service and a breakfast club are available to the children attending the National school.

The service relocated to the refurbished premises the Old National school building located on the grounds of the National school in January 2023. This building was renovated in accordance with the building regulation for a listed premises.

The service has the sole use of a large playroom, a sensory room, bathroom facilities for the children and adults and access to a sensory garden and an enclosed outdoor play areas for the children.

There is a staff room and a kitchen located upstairs in the premises.

Staffing

There are 5 staff including the manager working in the service each day.

All the staff hold a qualification in childcare.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 8, 9, 11, 15, 19, and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a preschool child.

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

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)The childcare service did not notify Tusla, The Early Years Inspectorate of the change of the registered provider who is responsible for the operation of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)Tusla, The Early Years Inspectorate has been notified of the change of the change of circumstances .

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the change in circumstances was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement of Regulation 8 point (1).

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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge were available on the premises on the day of inspection.

(2) There were five staff employed in the service and all were working in the service on the day. The five staff files were checked on the day of the inspection.

The registered provider had ensured that each employee working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for all staff employed.

(a) References from the person's past employers and the most recent employer were available for all staff.

(b) References from reputable sources in the case of a person who had no past employers were available where required.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all staff.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff had childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 Inspection there were four staff working with thirteen pre-school children. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct. The manager was available if required.
- (3) The written staff roster showed that the service manager ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in 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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

Compliance Information

(1) The service maintained an adequate record for each child attending the service, in accordance with Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i) in the eleven children's records inspected.

(3)

(a) Parents/guardians had access to all information and written records relating to their own child.

(b) Records were available to the authorised person in the service.

(c) Records were open and available for inspection to the Tusla Early Years Inspector.

(4) Records were retained for 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend 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

Compliance Information

BASIC NEEDS

The parents provided the snack food and drink for their child. The service encouraged parents to choose healthy options. On the day, children's snacks observed consisted of filled sandwiches and rolls with yogurts, cheese and fresh fruits. Drinking water was available to the children at all times.

Children could access the bathroom at any time during the session. The staff supervised children's hand washing and provided assistance when needed.

Good personal hygiene practices were observed. Children washed their hands before snack break and after toileting and messy play.

Children had opportunities to move about freely in the playroom during their free play time.

The adults were positive and consistent in their approach to managing children's behaviour.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

The indoor environment consisted of one large playroom which was comfortable, bright and welcoming, providing a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Suitable low-level tables and seating were provided for children. A sensory room with a variety of sensory materials was available should a child need some time away from the general play area.

The range of play resources were sufficient and varied to support all areas of children's development and offer sensory stimulation. These included materials that required children to use their gross motor, fine motor, thinking and reasoning skills and support their language development.

The play equipment was freely available and accessible to the children when needed on low level open shelving. Play equipment and materials were grouped to provide specific interest areas and appealing places for children to play and explore.

Enclosed outdoor play areas were provided to the front and rear of the premises. The area to the front was a green lawn and the sensory garden located to the rear of the service contained overhanging trees, shrubs, mud kitchen provided nature experiences for the children.

Also the children had access to an all-weather surface located to rear of the National school allowed for play in all weathers. This area contained an outdoor bench with seating, ride on toys, a playhouse and slides.

On the day of the inspection children were outdoors in the sensory garden enjoying the experiences of nature playing with water, mulch and other play equipment.

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,

Non-Compliance Information

(b) Safe and appropriate storage space was not available for play equipment and other equipment when not in use. For example metal goal posts, weights, three portable radiators and a gazebo were inappropriately stored in the disability toilet making access difficult and unsafe for the children and the staff. This posed a risk of injury to staff and children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(b) All equipment has been removed from the disability toilet and has been safely relocated in other storage spaces in the building.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the work completed.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 29 point (b).