

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LK052

Name of Service: Coolfree Kids

Address of Service: Ballyorgan National School, Ballyorgan, Kilfinane, Co. Limerick

Eircode: V35 Y046

Name of Registered Provider: Teresa Sheehy

Service type: Parttime

Dates of Inspection: 06/09/2023

No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	6

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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 service is located in a rural setting. A parttime service is provided to children aged between 2-6 years and it is currently open from Monday to Friday between 08.00 hours and 12.30 hours. A school age service is also provided in the afternoon. The premises are single storey located in a now closed national school with 2 rooms in use.

Staffing

There are five adults on the staff roster. Two staff work with the preschool children and three staff work directly with the school aged children.

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. 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 inspectors 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.*

(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 with two staff working directly with the children in the service on the day. The remaining three staff work with the school aged children.

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 available for one 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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were two staff working in the service caring for 6 preschool children which is in compliance with the recommended adult/child ratios. Additional staff were available to supervise the children who attend the school aged 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

(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS:

A healthy eating policy was available in the service. Each child had their own drinking bottle for water and fruit and sandwiches were observed to be available for snack. A documented and detailed healthy eating policy was available for the part-time service. Both staff had completed food hygiene training and there was a specific staff member designated to cooking and cleaning duties.

All children were toilet trained and were observed to toilet independently.

Children used the rest area in the room to relax and read books.

Staff were observed interacting well with the children, using soft tones of voice, using the child's name and getting down to their level and making eye contact.

Staff were observed to be actively involved in children's play where they initiated play and joined in the games when invited by the children.

Children played outdoors and were observed to enjoy games with staff and there was a plentiful supply of play equipment available to them.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Both playrooms were well equipped with play materials and equipment.

The rooms had areas of interest developed and all play equipment was stored at a low level, readily accessible to children. Facilities for outdoor play were available on site at the entrance to the service. There was a large grass area with a timber shelter, a selection of sensorial play materials and a large timber climbing frame. Picnic benches were located near the roofed area where children are sheltered from the sun. Children have their snacks outdoors as much as possible.

The service had rest areas in both playrooms consisting of couches and floor mats for children to use if they are tired or need some quiet time away from the general play area. Sleep beds, pillows, blankets and bean bags were available for the older children to rest and relax on if required.

The outdoor area is located at the front and rear of the service and is fully enclosed and secure with fencing and locked gates.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Each child attending the service was recorded on the attendance record with details of their time of entry and their time of exit.
- (3)(a) The person in charge ensured that no persons other than the following can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee.
- (i) A pre-school child attending the service.
 - (ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.
 - (iii) An employee.
 - (iv) An unpaid worker.
- (b) A daily record in writing was kept of adults who enter the facility on the visitors book.

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) Five staff have updated training in first aid for children (FAR) and the certificates were valid until 21/04/2025.

(2)(a) There are two suitably equipped first aid boxes available on the premises.

(b) The first aid box is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.