

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK076
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Name of Service:	Galbally Childcare Services Ltd
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Address of Service:	Galbally National School, Galbally, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	E34 E424
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Name of Registered Provider:	Martin Kearney
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	03/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	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

Galbally Pre-School is a sessional service located in a modular building on the grounds of Galbally National school in Co. Limerick. It operates Monday to Friday from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm. It has a maximum capacity of 22 children. There were 15 children present on the day of the inspection. The premises has 1 large playroom with sanitary facilities adjacent. For all outdoor play pursuits children have access to the primary school playground and the adjacent sport field with a well-resourced playground.

A school aged service is available in afternoon to the children attending the National school.

Staffing

The registered provider of the service is the school principal. A person in charge and the two staff members manage and work at the service each day. Each adult has completed a major award 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 announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,19, 24,25,26; however on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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) There was a named person in charge available and a deputy who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the person in charge and two staff were present and the staff roster indicated that the person in charge and the deputy were always available on the premises.

(2)(a) All staff files were reviewed. Two written references were available for each adult working at the service.

(b) All references were from each person's previous employers or from a previous school or work placement.

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

(d) Police vetting was not required for any staff member.

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

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) Only two of the 6 written references on file had evidence of validation.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The references were validated and signed by the registered provider.

Any new practitioners will have the 2 references signed and validated by the registered provider before commencing employment. These will be kept on file.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated references were submitted.

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(a),(b) references 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.*
- (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 15 pre-school children and 3 adults on the premises for the sessional service. The adult child ratio was correct in the facility.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that at all times the number of children and staff present in the service met the requirements of the regulations. There were 3 staff members present each day in the service to ensure that the adult child ratios were adhered to at all times.

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 service ensured that each child's learning and development was facilitated within the daily life of the service. A healthy eating policy was in place and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Fresh fruit, crackers, sandwiches and yogurts were observed in children's lunches. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times and children were encouraged to take regular drinks throughout the morning. All children were toilet trained and were independently using the bathroom facilities. Help was offered if required. Tissues and wipes were always accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins. Protective clothing for messy play activities and a change of clothes was available for each child if needed.

A large adult couch with soft cushions and blankets was located in the library corner of the room. This provided the children with a rest space if they needed quiet time away from the general play areas. During the inspection children were observed relaxing in this area when tired.

Children had daily access to an outdoor play area that was located on the National school grounds. Opportunities to run, climb, crawl and balance were available in this space. Children also had access to the sports playfield and playground where opportunities for risky play was accessible.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The indoor environment was laid out with a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Play equipment and materials were grouped to provide specific interest areas and appealing places for children to play and explore. Some of the areas included a construction area, a home corner equipped with a play kitchen, food props, dolls and prams, an imagination play area with dress up clothes, a rest /relaxation reading corner with a soft couch located next to a book stand, an art/craft area and a sensorial and messy play area. Children had access to a variety of materials and equipment which were rotated to suit the changing abilities and interests of the children.

Artwork, educational posters and photographs were displayed at the child's eye level.

The outdoor areas of the service offered the children space for physical play, for movement and for exploration.

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) A staff member checked in and checked out every child to the service when they arrived and when they left the premises. The staff documented their arrival time and their departure time each day.
- (3)(a) The service ensured that only children attending, the person who drops and collects children and employees are allowed entry to the premises.
- (b) All visitors to the service must be signed in and signed out by a staff member.

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 was one staff on duty who had up to date first air response training.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box in the Preschool room.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible to all staff if and when 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
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) Fire drills were carried out monthly and records indicated that fire drills did take place regularly up until June 2013. A fire drill for this September preschool year has not been carried out to date.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment was available on the premises with the most recent service carried out in November 2022.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the wall at the entrance to the Preschool room.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) There was no maintenance record available of the most recent servicing of the smoke alarm system for the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

A registered electrician has been contacted to come and carry out a maintenance check on smoke alarms system for the service. A cert to certify that the work has been done will be sent to the inspectorate.

Maintenance records of smoke alarms will be readily available and on file for future inspections.

Supporting documentation submitted

No

Summary Comment

Regulation 26 Fire point (1)(b) remains outstanding as the evidence that the work has been completed has not been submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

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 22 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2023 and expired on the 27th of March 2024.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. The walls in the playroom, entrance area and bathroom facilities appeared unclean and in need of maintenance.
 2. The vent in the children's bathroom was dirty with dust and in need of a deep clean.
- (e)
3. Access into the disability toilet/ adult toilet was hindered by a table positioned in front of the toilet. The table was used to store the children's bags during the hours of operation.
- Also in the bathroom there were chairs used by the school aged children in the afternoon and 2 black bags of waste materials making access to the toilet and wash hand basin difficult for the staff and children. A malodour was noted due to the storage of bags of waste material for the past few weeks.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
1. The walls in both the main room and hallway as well as the doors in the hallway have been washed down and painted.
 2. All vents in the main room and in all three bathrooms have been replaced.

(e)

3. Access into the disability toilet/adult toilet has been cleared of any obstacles. The table previously situated in the hall has been moved to storage as have the chairs that were being kept in the bathroom.

Waste material has been cleared and disposed of in the blue and green bins at the side of our setting.

The service will ensure walls are kept clean and fresh by regular cleaning and painting when required. Vents will be wiped down to ensure no build-up of residue.

Access into the disability/adult toilet will be clear at all times. Chairs will be kept in storage in the unit on the main school grounds.

Any waste material will be disposed of each day when service has ended.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of painted walls, new vents, access to disability/adult bathroom were submitted with the CAPA.

Summary Comment

The action as stated by the registered provider in relation to the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29 Premises, points (d) and (e) have been adequately addressed.