

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK101
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Name of Service:	Boro Buddies Preschool
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Address of Service:	Anglesboro National School, Anglesboro, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35 RH22
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Pratt Hogan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	18/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	0
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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 privately owned preschool service opened in September 2016. It provides a sessional service for children aged 2 to 6 years of age from 08.45 to 12.00hrs for 38 weeks of the year. The service operates from a designated play room in Anglesboro National school, located in the village of Anglesboro, Co Limerick

The service has one play room, access to the sensory room in the school, designated sanitary facilities for preschool children and staff, the schoolyard and a sensory garden in the outdoor play area .

It can cater for 11 pre-school children at any one time.

Staffing

The registered provider and one staff were working with the children on the day.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 24, and 26;

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*

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was present in the service on the day of the inspection.

(2) 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 the registered provider and the one staff employed.

(a) References from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer.

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

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

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

(4) The registered provider and the staff working with the children had childcare qualifications.

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) The registered provider ensured that at all times the correct number of staff were rostered to work at the service.

(3) On the day of the inspection there was the registered provider and one staff present with 11 preschool children for the session. The adult/child ratios were correct.

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) The records for the 11 preschool children were examined and they contained the following details.

- (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.

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

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The snacks and drinks provided were adequate, suitable, nutritious, and varied for each pre-school child attending the service. The children were given sufficient time to eat and enjoy their snacks and drinks without being rushed. Staff were observed to sit with the children and enjoy their own snack also.

Sanitary accommodation was located close to the play room in the service and children were observed to toilet independently.

A supply of tissues and wipes which were accessible to the children. Lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence. There were child friendly visual aids to help the children to wash their hands effectively.

The rest area with comfortable seating and cushions was accessible to all children.

The staff responded to the children's cues for assistance in a prompt and sensitive manner. The children were supported as they played individually and as part of a group.

Physical and Material Environment:

The playroom was laid out with uncluttered, clear floor spaces for the children to play safely. Designated areas of interest were available with appropriate supporting play materials and equipment.

Children had daily access to the school yard for play, exploration and fun and access to the sensory garden for imaginative play.

The outdoor play areas was safe, secure and children were supervised by staff at all times.

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 pre-school child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by the registered provider. This record was available on the attendance register.

(3)(a) The person in charge ensured that no person other than the following were allowed enter the service.

(i) Pre-school child attending the service.

(ii) A person dropping or collecting such a child.

(iii) An employee.

(iv) An unpaid worker can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee.

(b) A record was maintained on the premises of the entry of any visitors to 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
- (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 had commenced in September 2023.
- (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 June 2023.
- (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:

The registered provider has stated that she has contacted the National school in relation to the servicing of the smoke alarm for the preschool service.

Supporting documentation submitted

No

Summary Comment

Regulation 26 Fire Safety point (1)(b) remains outstanding as no evidence has been submitted by the registered provider to support corrective action was completed in relation to the annual service of the smoke alarm. This will need to be reviewed at the next inspection