

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK140		
Name of Service:	Patrickswell Community Playschool		
Address of Service:	Patrickswell National School, Patrickswell, Co. Limerick		
Eircode:	V94 XW72		
Name of Registered Provider:	Rose Johnson		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	29/09/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Offices of Early Years Inspectorate, 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

Patrickswell Community Playschool is a community sessional service operating in a modular building on the grounds of Patrickswell National School in County Limerick. It provides a pre-school facility every Monday to Friday from 09.00 hrs to 12.00hrs. The sessional service can cater for up to a maximum of 22 pre-school children at any one time. A service for school aged children is offered each afternoon.

The service operates from a large, well-resourced playroom. A second room is used each afternoon by the school aged children. Children have daily access to the school playground for outdoor play activities.

A hallway at the entrance to the school displays a notice board with lots of information for the parents in relation to the school activities.

Staffing

The registered provider of the service is the chairperson of the pre-school committee. There is a designated manager and 2 staff working at the service.

All staff at the pre-school have achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. One staff has completed the LINC programme, a course designed to enhance inclusion of children with additional needs in early childhood care and education settings.

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 following areas of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection 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 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) The registered provider who is the committee chairperson has appointed a designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a) There were written references, from past employers, available in respect of all staff members employed at the service, with recorded validations for each reference.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, references from an alternative source were provided.

(c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of each staff member working at the service.

(d) Not applicable to this service as none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction.

(4) Each staff member held a major award 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) The service operates a morning session starting at 9am and finishing at 12 md. There were 9 children with 3 adults attending the morning session.
- (3) At all times the registered provider 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Each of the children’s registration and enrolment forms were viewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars documented on the form:
- (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. Written consent was also documented for permission to take and share photographs and for children to participate in outings from the service.

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 of each employee working at the service. These were displayed on the notice board at the entrance to the service.*
 - (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. This was clearly displayed on the wall of the preschool. A newsletter was issued twice a term with lots of up-to-date information on events and activities at 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 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed. Parents were informed of the policies available and advised how to access them if needed.*
 - (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.*
 - (i) Rosters were maintained daily and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.*
 - (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.*
 - (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending 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:

A healthy eating policy was available at the service and children brought a healthy snack each day with them to the preschool. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times. At lunch time staff were observed sitting with children at the table facilitating mealtimes to be a social occasion. Assistance was offered to the younger children during lunch if required..

All children were toilet trained and could independently use the bathroom facilities which were located next to the preschool room. Tissues and wipes were easily accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of safely in foot pedal operated, lidded bins.

Protective clothing was available for children to wear during messy play activities and when going outside to the playground in wet weather. Children spend a period outdoors every day at the service.

A rest relaxation space was available in the library corner if children were tired and needed time away from active play and busy games. Soft cushions and floor mats provided a comfortable space in the reading area.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The indoor environment was well laid out to accommodate the needs of all children at the service. Low level tables and chairs were used for tabletop activities and for dining at mealtimes. A large art trolley was well equipped with lots of paper and art and craft materials. Pasta shells, sand and water trays were available for messy play activities. A home corner with play kitchen, dolls, prams, buggies and a toy shop were accessible for imaginative play. A model farm was located with lots of toy machinery and animals available. A library area with a low-level book stand and bean bags provided a quiet space for children to read and enjoy the books available. Lots of educational posters were displayed on the walls at children's eye level. Outside the children had access to the large school playground and to a garden area at the rear of the premises. Opportunities for ball games, jogging and running provided opportunities for the children to develop their gross motor skills.

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.