

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK168		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sunny Lane Creche		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Sunny Lane, The Avenue, Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V9473F4		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anne McNamara		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/08/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	65	PM 52
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan E Browne		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This full day care service is located in a rural village setting. A service is provided to children aged between 0 – 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.45 hrs and 17.15 hrs (including a sessional service from 09.00 hrs to 12.00 hrs for 38 weeks of the year). The service is operated from a two-storey building on the main street with 5 playrooms. Facilities for outdoor play are available on site.

### Staffing

There are 18 adults on the staff roster and of these 16 work directly with the children which includes the registered provider. All staff have childcare qualifications.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,16,23 and 27.

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.

### Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received to the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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) 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) 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 18 staff members and were reviewed on the day of the inspection.
- (a) References from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer.
- (b) References from sources other than past employers 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 person.
- (4) All staff had childcare qualifications ranging from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) One staff member who had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months did not have police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The staff member who required police vetting has applied for it through the appropriate authorities.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

None submitted.

### Summary Comment

While it is acknowledged that the registered provider has stated that the outstanding police vetting has been applied for, evidence that it has been received has not been submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate. This non-compliance remains outstanding.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. On the day of the inspection there were 15 staff working with and supervising 65 children in the morning and there were 14 staff supervising 52 children in the afternoon.

### 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:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(k) The policy on accidents and incidents detailed the procedure to be followed by staff when an accident or incident occurred involving a preschool child.

Records of all accidents and incidents were shared with parents /guardians.

The policy details how notifiable incidents must be notified to the Early Years Inspectorate within 3 days.

A risk assessment took place following all accidents and incidents to reduce the risk of incidents reoccurring.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

A risk management policy was documented and there was evidence of the policy being implemented.

Risk safety checklists were completed daily by staff and staff had received training on the policy.

Both entrances and exits from the service were safe and secure.

There was a buzzer system on the entrance/exit door from the laneway and the entrance/exit door from the montessori room.

Staff were observed to accompany all children to the exit gates when they were going home where they were handed in to the care of their parents/guardians.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

Each child was under the supervision of a staff member at all times.

Children were supervised primarily by sight.

Supervision considered the correct adult /child ratios, the individual needs of the child and the activities being engaged in at the time.