

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LM002
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Annaduff Community Childcare Ltd
-------------------------	----------------------------------

Address of Service:	Jamestown Community Centre, Jamestown, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	N41 FP82
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Toni Becker
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	09/01/2024
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Annaduff preschool service operates from a converted community centre in the village of Jamestown. This sessional service operates from a large care room with direct access to an enclosed outdoor area. The service operates a morning sessional service from 09.00 to 12.30. The service operates five days a week and can accommodate 22 preschool children.

Staffing

On the day of inspection three adults were employed in the service. The person in charge works directly with the 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/ safety and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and recruitment, 11 Staffing levels, 19 Health welfare and development of the child, 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the child, 24 Checking in and out and record of attendance and 28 Insurance. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) (b).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2)

The records of all three adults employed in the service were reviewed.

- (a) Two written and verified past employer references were available for two of the adults employed in the service.
- (b) Two written and verified references for one adult were available from an other source in the absence of a past employer.
- (c) A garda vetting disclosure was available for all three adults in the service.
- (d) International police vetting was available for the one adult that had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Three adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of 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.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service.
On the morning of the unannounced inspection three adults were working directly with twenty preschool children for the duration of the sessional service.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the age of the child and the duration of the time spent in the preschool 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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

The preschool operates out of a large care room that has been sectioned into various areas to create various interest areas for children to explore and play. The interest areas set up include a home corner, with a playhouse, kitchen, dress up area and seating area. This home corner is equipped with dolls and teddys, kitchen materials and food to create opportunities for imaginary play. In another area of the care room a construction area is set up with cars, tractors and trucks, tracks and building blocks for manipulative and pretend play. A sensory area with sand boxes and Tuff trays, allow for messy play for the preschool children. Arts and crafts areas allow for children to explore their imagination and use colours and textiles to produce artwork that is displayed on the walls throughout the care room. Tabletop activities such as beading, threading, puzzles and jigsaws create opportunities for fine motor skill development. The outdoor area in the service offers an alternative area of play for the children, with resources for development of gross motor skills in the form of slides, building blocks, bikes and trikes. Other resources include playhouses and mud kitchens to facilitate pretend play.

On the day of the inspection, children moved freely around the interest areas in the preschool service. Children were provided with the opportunity to direct their own play and happily made choices of where and who they wanted to play with allowing for development of social skills. The adults were observed to be kind and gentle in their interactions with the preschool children. Throughout artwork, the adults supervising the children were observed to be supportive and used praise and encouragement to provide the children with a sense of achievement. The staff team worked well together, communicating with each other effectively of plans for the day. The adults focussed on promoting children's independence with a helper each today to assist staff with various duties around lunch and leading children to tidy up and prepare for transitions.

On review of individual journals, there was evidence of the Aistear curriculum with various artwork supporting the themes of the Aistear model. The service places emphasis on the importance of transitions and one example of this was a school wall, where pictures of the local national schools and the preschool children's future teachers were displayed, this display provided opportunity for discussion in preparation for a move to national school.

Circle time was observed on the day, which provided an opportunity for inclusivity and language development. All preschool children were involved in this activity together, supporting and encouraging each other through song and dance.

All snacks in the service were provided from home and consisted of healthy snacks of sandwiches, crackers, fruit and yoghurts. Perishable items were stored in the Kitchen adjacent to the main care room. The service operated a hydration station at the entrance to the care room, where children could access their drinking water throughout the preschool session.

Those children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the bathroom independently, supervised from a safe distance. There were some children attending the preschool who were in nappies and a newly installed nappy changing table was available. Nappies were observed to be changed as required and in line with the service policy. Rest areas were provided in the service, in the care room and in the outdoor area, which gave the preschool children an opportunity to rest or opt out of an activity.

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:

- The main entrance into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons entering unauthorised and children from leaving the building unsupervised.
- CCTV monitored the entrance and exit points in the building.
- All cleaning products in were stored in the locked storage room out of the reach of children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor perimeter was secure.
- Waste bins stored out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- There were adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to mealtimes and after messy play and snack times in the care room.
- The materials and resources throughout the service were visually clean.
- Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before snacks and meals.
- Child friendly hand wash posters with picture instructions were placed above the wash basins.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no medication administered on the day of the inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- The fire assembly point was clearly displayed at the front of the building.

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.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1) On a review of attendance books, the registered provider ensured that all preschool children arrival and departure times were recorded.
- (2) The registered provider has ensured that the adults in the service are aware of their responsibilities for checking in and out of the preschool children.
- (3) (a) (b).
The visitor's book was available for review for the inspector which evidenced that any visitors to the service such as contractors or an unpaid worker was approved by the person in charge.
- (4). The registered provider has assured the inspector that this record is maintained for a period of one year.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of a current insurance certificate, providing adequate insurance cover for a sessional service for 22 children up until the 27/03/2024.