

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN027				
Name of Service:	Glaslough Community Playgroup Ltd				
Address of Service:	Cloncaw, Glennan, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan				
Eircode:	H13 F443				
Name of Registered Provider:	Patrick Watterson				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	21/10/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>9</td> <td>PM</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	AM	9	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan				
Inspection undertaken by:	S Skinnader				
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

Glaslough Community Playgroup Ltd is a community run service which is in operation since 2002. It provides a sessional service to children aged 2 years – 6 years. The service caters for a maximum of 20 children. The service partakes in the ECCE scheme and opens from 9 am – 12 pm Monday to Friday. This service is located in a rural setting of Glaslough Co. Monaghan. It operates from a community hall to the side of the local church. There is one care room, kitchenette area, sanitary accommodation, and an outdoor play area to the back of the building.

Staffing

There are 5 members of staff employed in the service, four working directly with the children and one employed for cleaning duties and occasionally assisting with tidying and setting out equipment in the care room during the session.

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/ premises and facilities. 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,

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises when the inspector arrived and were present throughout the inspection.

All 5 staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection:

(2)(a) and (b) There were 2 written and validated references available for all 5 members of staff.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 5 staff members. The service had adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for the 1 staff member who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction as an adult for a period of 6 months or more.

(4) All of the 4 staff who worked directly with the preschool children had at least a minimum of a Level 5 childcare qualification or a letter of equivalency.

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 inspection when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service there was 1 room in operation and there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending.

(3) The adult: child ratio observed in the care room was correct, as there were 3 adults caring for 9 preschool children aged 3 to 4 years of age.

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1)(h) The details of all children attending the service on the day of inspection were recorded with arrival and departure times.

(i) A staff rota was available which specified the hours and days worked by the staff members in 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-

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs:

- All lunches were brought in by the children and stored appropriately in the fridge. The lunches were observed to consist of fruit, crackers, yogurts, rolls, pasta and pancakes. Assistance was given to the children with opening certain foods and staff members also sat with the children during lunchtime. The children's drinks were readily accessible to them in the care room. All children were given time to finish their lunches.
- Independence with toileting was promoted for the children who were toilet trained and discreet supervision was also provided by staff for those who required assistance. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children.
- Tissues were available in the care room and in general children were independent in accessing them.
- All children had a change of environment to the outdoor area and the children were dressed appropriately to go outside.

Supporting Relationships

- A key worker system was in operation in the service for the recording of observations and emerging interests of the children.
- The children were observed to be provided with sensitive care and nurturing interactions by the staff. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the staff and children in the room. For example, "good listening pet", "gentle hands", "I love your hair like that its lovely" "what's wrong?" The children were observed to seek out the adults for assistance and play and the staff actively supported the children's play activities and games.
- Communication with parents was predominantly informal at drop off and collection times.

- A “Jobs Board” for the children was in operation where the children were given jobs such as ringing the bell, lunch helper and the leader for going outside.
- The service had a plan in place to support a child who required additional supports.

Physical and Material Environment

- A variety of age-appropriate toys and equipment were available in the care room on low level shelving which promoted independence and facilitated choice for the children.
- There was a well-resourced kitchen corner with real world items and vegetables, a construction area, water tray with seasonal items such as spiders and bats, small world figures, tabletops set up with playdough and art equipment and supplies.

Programme Of Activities.

- There was evidence of daily, long and short-term planning which were on display on the wall.
- Observations, artwork and photographs were collected for “My Learning Journal” scrapbooks for the children.
- Seasonal Halloween artwork such as cotton wool ghosts was on display, along with free painting and traffic lights.
- Song singing was used to encourage and support hand washing after messy play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b) The service has a soft comfortable area where a child could take a break from activities or sit and read a book. It consisted of a floor mat, cushions and child sized corner sofa in good condition.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, on the premises at all times. Two FAR certificates were reviewed.
- (2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available to the preschool children.