

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MO074				
Name of Service:	Lollys and Robins				
Address of Service:	Ramolin, Shrule, Co. Mayo				
Eircode:	H91 Y232				
Name of Registered Provider:	Elayne Walsh				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	07/11/2023				
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:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, 2nd Floor, St. Mary's HQ., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.				
Inspection undertaken by:	M Farrell				
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

Lollys and Robins is a sessional service located in the village of Shrulc in Co Mayo. The service is registered to cater for children aged from two to six years of age and provide services from 9:20 to 12:20 hours. The service operates from a purpose-built building beside the registered provider's home. There is one playroom and sanitary facilities in the building. The premises has an enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

Staffing

There are three staff in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children, staff employed through the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and relief staff.

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, 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 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 there was a named adult to deputise in her absence.
 - (b) The designated person in charge and deputy were available on the premise throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) The designated person in charge informed the inspector that there were two new adults working in the service since the most recent inspection of the 2 June 2021. The following vetting information was available for these adults whose vetting documentation had not been previously inspected:
 - (a) Two written validated references from past employers in particular the most recent employer for two adults.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for the two adults.
 - (d) The registered provider confirmed that international police vetting was not required for the staff members who had not resided outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as adults.
- (4) Certification of a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or equivalent was available for the staff members who worked directly with the children in the service.

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 morning of the unannounced inspection, there were 3 adults caring for 9 children in the service.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children of 1 adult for each 11 sessional children aged from 2 years and 6 months to six years was adhered to with 3 adults caring for the 9 children present.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) (a) to (i)

The records of the 11 children enrolled were reviewed by the inspector. The records were found to be compliant with the required details as laid out under the regulation.

(3) The required information detailed in paragraph (1) was made available to the inspector by the registered provider on request.

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.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured written records were kept of the following information in the service:
- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of each staff member and unpaid worker.
 - (b) Information on the type of service type and ages of children that the service is registered to provide services to.
 - (c) The adult: child ratios provided in the service.
 - (d) The service's type of care or programme.

- (e) The facilities available in the service.
 - (f) The service's hours of opening and fees.
 - (g) The service's policies, procedures and statements as required under Regulation 10 that were kept in a service policy folder. The service policies had been last updated by the staff on the 28 August 2023.
 - (h) Details of the daily attendance of each pre-school child recorded on daily attendance sheets.
 - (i) Details of the staff daily working hours recorded on attendance sheets.
 - (j) Forms to record any medication administered to a child while attending the service to include signed parental consent.
 - (k) Accident/incident forms with details of any accident, injury or incident involving children attending the service signed by staff and parents.
- (3)
- The records referred to in paragraph (1) were immediately made available in the service by the registered provider to the inspector on request.

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 children were playing in the secured outdoor area on the inspector's arrival to the service. Entrance to the premises was controlled and monitored by staff with securing mechanisms in place on gates. The external door to the playroom was secured when the children were playing indoors. There was a blind cord restrictor device in place at the entrance door to secure the door's blind out of reach of the children. The toys and play equipment in use on the day were well maintained and suitable for the age and developmental stages of the children using them. Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children in a high cupboard in the playroom. Daily risk assessments of the outdoor sheltered area were carried out by staff prior to use and documented on record sheets. Whole grapes provided in a child's snack were chopped appropriately by staff as they presented a choking hazard.

Infection Control:

The premises and play equipment were observed to be very clean and the staff cleaned down surfaces frequently during the inspection for example the tables after mealtime. Records of the cleaning/disinfection processes carried out by the staff in the service were kept and displayed for example in the children's sanitary area lobby. Hand washing facilities with warm water recorded under 43°C were provided with liquid soap and paper towels for children to wash and dry their hands with. The staff were observed to prompt and supervise the children washing their hands following using the toilet and before lunchtime. Foot pedal operated bins were available and used appropriately for waste disposal including paper towels after use. A box of tissues was available at a low level in the playroom for the children to clean their noses with. There was a refrigerator available in the playroom to store perishable food items such as yoghurt provided from home in children's lunches under the required 5°C.

Administration of Medication:

The staff advised the inspector that none of the children in attendance at present required medication to be administered to them whilst in the service. There was a medication administration policy in place in the service with a sample medication administration template record form to be completed by staff if needed.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exit routes were found to be free from obstruction during the inspection.

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) A certificate of the completion of First Aid Response (FAR) training course with an expiry date of 1 March 2024 was available for one staff member who was present on the day.
- (2)
 - (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible location in a labelled cupboard in the playroom.
 - (b) The first aid box was readily accessible to the staff if a child required first aid treatment.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had a certificate of insurance displayed valid until the 27 March 2024 showing that adequate insurance cover was in place for the service's maximum number of children.