

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN046		
Name of Service:	Siamsa Resource Centre		
Address of Service:	Brothers of Charity, 34 The Demesne, Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon		
Eircode:	F45A623		
Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Hannon		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	14/02/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	2	PM n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.		
Inspection undertaken by:	A Kennedy		
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

This sessional service is located within a short distance of the village of Frenchpark. A service is provided to children aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday from 10:00hrs to 13:00hrs for 41 weeks of the year. The premises is a detached two storey building and accommodation includes three separate playrooms, a kitchen and dining area and relevant sanitary facilities. Office spaces and staff facilities are provided on the first floor. A large outdoor play area is provided to the rear and side of the premises and parking is available to the front of the building.

Staffing

There are six adults employed in the service and three adults were present on the day of the inspection. A bus driver is also employed in the service. The registered provider does not work within the service and has employed a manager who is responsible for the operation of the service.

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, 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 there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises on the day of the inspection.

Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times, when the pre-school children were present.

(2) There are six adults employed in the service which includes the bus driver.

The staff files for the registered provider, person in charge and the six adults were reviewed.

(a)&(b) Two references from previous employments were available with evidence of validation for all staff.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting documentation was on file for one adult as they had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period in excess of 6 months as an adult.

(4) There was evidence of the required qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent on file for staff members who worked directly with the children.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that all times the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to which was evidenced through the roster and through communication with the designated person in charge

On the morning of the inspection, there were two pre-school children in attendance with three staff including the person in charge, working directly with the children.

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.

Compliance Information

- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner. The staff encouraged the children to feed themselves independently, according to their age and stage of development.
- Nutritious snacks were provided by the parents which consisted of soft rolls, rice cakes, ham and a selection of fruits with juice or water available as a drink.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to nappy changing and toileting. The privacy and dignity of a child having their nappy changed was maintained. The children had unrestricted access to the toilets and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting and nappy changing.
- The staff provided for each child's comfort and need for rest and relaxation in the sensory room.
- Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging. The children were aware of routines and daily transitions were seamless and made as comfortable as possible for example, getting ready for snack and transitioning to the different rooms during the session.
- The children were observed connecting, stacking, building, and linking. and doing puzzles and tabletop activities.
- The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?' and 'where is that?'
- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -
 - having a key person system for each child,
 - showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
 - listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language,
 - using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,

providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,

providing opportunities for the children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute.

working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.

- On speaking with the staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the service including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided in a daily communication book, at collection times, and by phone call.
- The staff ensured that the children had ongoing opportunities to interact informally with one another for example at free play and eating together.
- The staff supported the children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with each other. They encouraged and praised the children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours.
- The children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told 'no'.
- A flexible daily schedule was in place which allowed for activity depending on the children's individual needs.
- Hand washing was carried out regularly in the setting by the children with gentle reminders from the adults when each child arrived in the service, after toileting, prior to consuming snack and after messy play.
- There was a cosy area within the sensory room which could be adapted as a rest area for the children to rest or opt out of activities if they so wished.

Physical and Material environment

- The service has three indoor playrooms, all of which were in use at different times during the inspection.
- These were referred to as the classroom, the gross motor room and the sensory room.
- Direct access was provided to the outdoor area via the kitchen/dining area. Between the indoor and outdoor play environments there was a sufficient variety of play equipment and materials to promote all key areas of children's learning and development.
- The classroom was laid out with individual and small group play stations. The play equipment and materials included arts and crafts, sensory play activities, large and small scale construction and

manipulative materials; picture books, problem solving toys (e.g. Jigsaws), role and pretend play (e.g. play kitchen, play garages); messy play, small world toys (e.g. play animals, transport toys, play figures).

- Play resources were grouped into defined interest areas to create visual appeal and provide different play experiences. Wall art and visual displays added additional decorative features to the indoor play environments. The gross motor room was equipped with a climbing frame, a selection of balls, soft matting and play tents. The outdoor play area was located to the rear and side of the pre-school premises and was well laid out with interesting play areas on suitable surfaces to include a large newly erected swing sets, and a slide a playhouse, a picnic area, trikes and bikes, messy play opportunities and planting opportunities.
- A shed was available to store play equipment.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- There was a healthy eating policy.in the service and from observation, there was evidence that the foods consumed were adequate, nutritious, and varied.
- The adults advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by ongoing staff training, visual aids and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- There was a designated fridge in the kitchen for the safe storage of perishable foodstuffs from the children’s lunch boxes, for their snack times.

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 door was secure to prevent unauthorised entry.
- The external play area to the rear of the premises were secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were wall mounted and secured to prevent any trip or strangulation hazard.
- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Blind cords were securely fastened thereby preventing any potential risk.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all the children attending the service.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands upon arrival to the premises, after toileting / nappy changing, after messy play and before consuming their snack.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled and stored within the nappy changing area.
- The nappy changing area had a leak-proof, sealable airtight container for the disposal of nappies.
- The nappy changing policy was displayed on the wall of the nappy changing area.
- There were cleaning schedules and records for the playrooms, sanitary areas, and outdoor areas and on the cleaning and disinfection procedure undertaken in the service.
- Tabletops, highchairs and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

- Each playroom had a supply of disposable tissues, hand sanitiser, cleaning products, personal protective equipment and separate foot operated lidded bins for disposal of general waste.
- Each room had a bin for mouthed toys, and these were removed immediately after use and sterilised appropriately.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to children on the day of the inspection.
- It was advised that two staff are responsible for the administering of medicine and the staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency exits were observed to be free from obstructions at all times during the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Garda vetting was available for eight staff members However, three vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The manager of the service submitted a written response to state

General Safety:

- Garda vetting has been applied for the three staff, and these have been sent to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate on 26th of February and 11th of March. The manager will ensure that any staff who need the Garda clearance updated will be done within the three year time frame.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Evidence of the three vetting disclosures was submitted to the office of the Early Year's Inspectorate

Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive action and evidence submitted and deems it to meet compliance under Regulation 23.

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 service provided evidence that there were five staff trained in first aid for children available to the children, attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box in the kitchen, safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)
A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service.
The last recorded fire drill was dated 31st of January 2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 18th of December 2024.
The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 14th of February 2025.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

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 certification of adequate insurance which had an expiry date of 20th of October 2025.

The insurance included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision