

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN052				
Name of Service:	Tir na nOg Creche				
Address of Service:	Cluain Fraoigh, Lanesboro Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.				
Eircode:	F42 XK16				
Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead Ryan				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	19/05/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>36</td> <td>PM</td> <td>12</td> </tr> </table>	AM	36	PM	12
AM	36	PM	12		
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 & H. Heagney				
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This privately owned early years' service is in a housing development, on the outskirts of the town of Roscommon. This service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 17.30hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme and sessional care programme are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years of age. This purpose-built facility has three large pre-school rooms. On the day of inspection, two playrooms were operating, namely, the Junior Pre-school room and the Senior Pre-school room. The premise has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises for children's play, exploration, and fresh air. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a named person able to deputise. Seven staff work in the pre-school service. Five staff work directly with the children and hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education. Additionally, there is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the daily main meal.

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.

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

On the 22nd of May 2023, the early years inspectors sent a referral to the fire officer regarding the location of the fire assembly point. There is a potential risk to the safety and supervision of children accessing the assembly point, which is located across the road from the premises and at the entrance to the new housing development.

On the 31st of May 2023, the fire officer inspected this pre-school service and agreed guidance with the registered provider regarding the fire assembly point.

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*
- (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)

There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration 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.

(c)

Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, that identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2)

The seven staff files were reviewed.

(a)&(b)

Fourteen of the fourteen written validated references, on file for the seven staff were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the seven staff.

(d)

No staff member had lived outside the jurisdiction for 6 months or more while over the age of 18 years and

therefore they did not require police vetting.

(4)

Five staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Copies of qualifications were on file for the five staff.

Non-Compliance Information

(4)

1. One staff member working directly with children, did not hold one of the following:
 - A minimum award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
 - An exemption from the qualification requirement and confirmation that the Minister accepts this exemption.
 - The qualification requirement or relevant specialist training and the basis on which the capitation may be used for a person employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), detailed in an exemption letter from Pobal.

It is acknowledged that the staff member presented a component certificate but not a completed certificate, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5.

(7)

2. The service did not comply with their own recruitment policy, which specifies the procedure to be followed by the registered provider when hiring employees and unpaid workers, (including the steps to be taken to check and verify references, qualifications, and vetting documentation), prior to the employee commencing. One staff members employment record history indicated that they had worked in the service in 2021, then left the service and returned in January 2023. In conflict with the services own recruitment policy that states 'Garda vetting is not transferrable from one service to another' and that 'staff are required to complete a Garda vetting before they commence employment', the Garda vetting disclosure presented for this one staff member did not consider the previous employment and was dated 2021.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On 28th of June 2023 the registered provider advised of the following -

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (4)
1. The one staff member without full qualification and working directly with children, at the time of inspection, has now left. Going forward we will ensure all staff working directly with the children have a minimum award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
- (7)
2. The service will comply with the recruitment policy, which specifies the procedure to be followed by the registered provider when hiring employees and unpaid workers, (including the steps to be taken to check and verify references, qualifications, and vetting documentation), prior to the employee commencing.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (4)
1. The staff member is no longer working in the service.
- (7)
2. The staff member is no longer working in the service.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9 has been adequately addressed.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

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.

(2)
Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 36 pre-school children, aged 3 to 5 years, being cared for by four staff members. Additionally, the registered provider was supernumerary, assisted with childcare relief and the administration elements of the inspection.

In the afternoon of the inspection, there were 12 pre-school children, aged between 3 years to 5 years. There were four staff including the registered provider, working directly with the children.

(8)(a)
The registered provider ensured that there were two staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i)

A sample of twenty-five children’s records were randomly reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The twenty-five children’s records contained the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).

- The name and address of the child’s parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.
- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
- The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
- A record of any immunisations the child has had.
- Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4)&(5)

The person in charge advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that the pre-school had a system to allow all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending 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-

(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 tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax in a designated cosy area in each for the playrooms. Additionally, there were stackable beds available for children's sleep provision.
- The children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging. Children had plenty of opportunities to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- In the Junior Pre-school room, the children were observed at free play, at mix and match, playing house. The children were observed singing 'days of the week', 'I am a little teapot', 'what's the weather like today' and 'down in the jungle'. The children chatted to the inspectors about their day.
- In the Senior Pre-school room, the children were observed at free play, making puzzles, drawing/ painting, playing house / kitchen, using transport vehicles on tracks, and at dress up / pretend play. The children were observed stacking, constructing, shape sorting, connecting, and playing with animals. The children chatted to the inspectors about the activities in pre-school.
- In both playrooms, the staff read stories and children questioned the characters and gave their views. The children sang songs, nursery rhymes, xxx is here today' and chatted about colours. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?'.
- All the children had the opportunity to play outside. In the outdoor area, the children were observed running, chasing, playing catch, climbing, and playing with hula hoops. They played on the swings, slides, and climbing rope. They played on the activity centre, in the wooden boat, on rockers, in the playhouse and riding on tractors / bicycles. The children enjoyed group games and playing football.
- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- 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 children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks, 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.
- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received a parent handbook with the service ethos, daily routines, strategies for supporting the children and the updated policies, procedures, response plans.
 - On speaking with the staff, the inspectors were informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child’s experiences in the pre-school including the child’s likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times and via text messages, by phone calls, and by email.
 - The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child’s activities and initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences. The inspectors noted the staff acknowledged a child’s achievements ‘that is great’ ‘well done’ and used questions such as ‘what should we do next?’, ‘is there any other way to do this?’, to allow children to critically think and explore.
 - On the day of the inspection, the staff showed kindness. They were thoughtful, supportive, and reassuring whilst caring for the children. They cared for children by being supportive while the children engaged in free play, role play, and creative play. A climate was fostered where the children knew their boundaries. The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours. Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in

preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. The children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(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.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The design, organisation and resourcing of the pre-school environment supported each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service. The environment provided a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for all children in line with their stage of development. The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried. The play materials and environment were changeable, flexible, and responsive to the emerging changing needs, preferences, and interests of the children. The staff encouraged children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, and equipment in the environment, based on the child's choices, age and stage of development.

The indoor playrooms were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
 - accommodate children individually, and in small groups,
 - divide the space into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support children's play and learning,
 - give all children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the pre-school children.

- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

The Junior Pre-school room

- There were a variety of materials and equipment including connectors, stacking materials, mix and match, links, magnets, puzzles, insets, and games. There was a designated home area with play accessories. There was a variety of art and craft materials. There was a construction area with a selection of building blocks, and a work bench with tools and hard hats. There were transport vehicles including cars, diggers, a train track, and a selection of trains. There was a library with a selection of books.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, educational materials including nursery rhymes, a poster on how to do a fire drill, birthday balloons, our calendar, and a weather chart. There were also displays on shapes, seasons, months of the year, family photographs and the children's artwork.

The Senior Pre-school room

- There were a variety of materials and items of interests including dress up clothing, baby dolls with buggies, highchairs and play accessories. There was a home area with a kitchen and play accessories, a shop area with cash registers, shopping trolley, tables, and chairs. There was an art area with a paints, easels, glue, paintbrushes, insets, crayons, pencils, stencils, stick-on eyes, feathers, and pom poms. There were links, connectors, puzzles, jigsaws, insets, magnets, and games. There were basins with rice lentils, pasta, with utensils. There were tracks, transport vehicles, animals, and dinosaurs. There was a dolls house and small world items. There was a library with books.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, educational materials, photographs, and children's artwork. The themes included our family tree, days of the week, numbers, happy birthday, this is my family, seasons, shapes, months of the year, colours, nursery rhymes, our curriculum, and the daily routine.

(1)(b)

Rest / quiet area were provided in the playrooms in the form of child size seating, and bean bags to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to. Additionally, there were stackable beds if a child wanted the opportunity to sleep.

(3)(a)

- The outdoor area was surrounded by fencing, walls, and gates. The outdoor area was to the rear of the premises was covered with an impact absorbing matting and grass. The outdoor play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate.

- There was direct access to the outdoor area from the Junior Pre-school room. While the children from the Senior Pre-school room accessed the outdoor area via the vacant Playschool room.
- There was a large wooden climbing frame, with vantage point, slide. There was a swing set, a wooden play boat and a playhouse. There were bicycles, tricycles, scooters, push and pull toys and balls. There were sand / water basins with utensils. There was also a wooden storage shed.

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. There was evidence that the foods consumed were adequate, nutritious, and varied. The registered provider advised that healthy eating was promoted within the service by ongoing staff training, visual aids, and adherence to best practice guidelines.
- Before 9.00hrs, the children had the opportunity for breakfast consisting of cereal, toast and water or milk to drink.
- At 11.45hrs, the children had their snacks provided by parents and guardians, including fruit pieces, yogurts, crackers, sandwiches, cheese, meat, and sausage rolls.
- At 13.15hrs, the main meal of sweetcorn, peas, mashed potatoes, gravy, and fish pieces were offered.
- At 16.00hrs, the evening snack consisted of a choice of ham and pineapple pizza with milk to drink.
- At the main meal and evening snack the children had the opportunity for seconds and or an alternative.
- Cutlery, plates, and crockery were offered for children’s meal / snack times.
- Clean and safe drinking water was at a low-level and accessible to children in each playroom.

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 entrance doors into the pre-school were secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play area was secured thus preventing potential unauthorised persons access and or entry into the premises. The metal latches on the two side gates had a method of security preventing a child accessing the housing development.
- There were window restrictors on the windows in the Junior Pre-school room, Senior Pre-school room and Junior nappy changing area, as a safety precaution. Additionally, four windows in the Junior Pre-school room that were secured by a restrictive locking system had a key readily available in the event of a fire or an emergency.
- The fire exit routes in the playrooms and the hallway were free from obstruction.
- There was shatter proof ceiling lighting.
- The children were supervised by sight and sound whilst playing within their respective playrooms.
- Toys and play equipment were non-toxic and in good condition.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- All cleaning products were stored on high shelves inaccessible to a child.
- There was a designated staff room, to ensure staff consumed their hot drinks away from the children.

Infection Control:

- Regular hand washing by the staff and children was observed. Staff prompted the children to wash their hands before eating, following toileting, and after messy play activities.
- Adequate liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available in the sanitary units.
- There were suitable cleaning products available in the service.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- On the day of inspection, there was a water temperature reading of 36.1°C, for effective hand washing.
- The children's spare clothes were stored in readily identifiable airtight bags and placed in separate boxes to prevent the risk of cross contamination.

Administration of Medication:

- There were no medications administered to a child, on the day of the inspection.
- The staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication, should it be required.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The doors into the kitchen, utility / sluice room, staff sanitary areas, and staff room had no system of security posing a potential access safety risk. This was noted on then previous inspection dated 2nd November 2022.
2. In the Senior Pre-school sanitary area, a screw was missing from a lock on one of the cubicle doors, thus preventing effective closure.

In the outdoor play area, there were a number of safety hazards posing a potential risk of injury or harm to a pre-school child.

3. There were eleven wooden lattice panels on the fencing adjacent to the grass area, which were loose broken resulting in exposed rusty nails.
4. The frame surrounding two windows of the boat house and two windows of the activity centre were absent resulting in sharp edges being exposed.
5. On the wooden boat house, an anchor was absent resulting in six screws being exposed thus posing a potential safety risk.
6. The hand grips on a scooter were missing, resulting in exposed rusty metal. It is acknowledged, that on the day of the inspection, once noted by the early years inspectors, the registered provider removed this scooter.
7. To the rear of the premises, there was a concrete block pillar against a wooden fence, exposed on three sides, posing a safety risk. Additionally, there was a second concrete block pillar against a wooden fence, exposed on one side. It is acknowledged, there was an impact shock absorbing surface on the other two sides. This was noted on then previous inspection dated 2nd November 2022.
8. In the raised bed to the left of the wooden blue shed, there was evidence of wood rot and weeds in the planting area. The fencing to the right-hand side and rear of the wooden shed had protruding weeds and briars and there were gaps between the shed and fencing requiring repair. In a section of this wooden fence to the right-hand side of the wooden shed there were seven rusty nails exposed. Additionally, there was a loose rusty unused hinge on the door of the wooden blue shed.

9. There was flaking paint on the banisters / wooden posts of the activity centre and the wooden structure of the boat house.
10. There was an uneven exposed ground concrete surface section to the side of the wooden boat house, posing a potential trip hazard to a child.
11. A section of the soft surface matting was absent resulting in an uneven area posing a potential trip hazard to a child.

Infection Control:

12. On the day of inspection, perishable food from children's lunch boxes were not kept in a refrigerator or cool place at temperatures between 0 to 5°C. In conflict with best practice, in the Senior Pre-school room, perishable food, remained in the child's bag, for more than two hours. On the day of inspection, the room temperature reading was 21.7 °C.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a written response on 28th of June 2023 to advise of the following:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The doors into the kitchen, utility /sluice room, staff sanitary areas, and staff room now have a system of security. These doors will be kept secure and the areas kept inaccessible to the children.
2. In the Senior Pre-school sanitary area, a screw has been replaced on the lock on the one cubicle door.
3. The eleven wooden lattice panels on the fencing adjacent to the grass area, have been repaired/replaced and painted.
4. The frame surrounding two windows of the boat house and two windows of the activity centre are under repair and work will be completed by the 7th of July 2023.
5. On the wooden boat house where the anchor was absent the six screws have been removed.
6. The broken scooter has been removed.
7. To the rear of the premises, the concrete block pillar against a wooden fence, has been covered by artificial grass. The second concrete block pillar against a wooden fence is now covered on all sides.
8. In the raised bed to the left of the wooden blue shed, there is now a new timber surround and new plant bedding. The fencing to the right-hand side and rear of the wooden shed has now been repaired replaced and painted. The wooden shed has been repaired, replaced, and painted.
9. The wooden banisters of the activity centre and the boat house have been replaced and painted.
10. The section with uneven exposed ground concrete surface to the side of the wooden boat house has been replaced, with rubber tiles.

11. The outdoor impact absorbing tile was replaced.

Infection Control:

12. A refrigerator has been installed in the Senior Pre-school room for the storage of perishable foods.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of a security system for the doors into the kitchen, utility / sluice room, staff sanitary areas, and staff room was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the Senior Pre-school sanitary area, showing the repaired lock was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence of the repaired/replaced and painted eleven wooden lattice panels on the fencing adjacent to the grass area, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
4. The registered provider has advised in writing that repair of the frame surrounding two windows of the boat house and two windows of the activity centre in currently is ongoing and work will be completed by the 7th of July 2023.
5. Photographic evidence of the wooden boat house, where the anchor was absent showing that the six screws have been removed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
6. The registered provider removed the broken scooter on the day of inspection.
7. Photographic evidence of the two concrete block pillars covered with artificial grass were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
8. Photographic evidence of the new planted raised beds to the left of the wooden blue shed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of new wood surround and new wood fencing was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate. Photographic evidence of the painted and repaired wooden shed was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
9. Photographic evidence of the painted and repaired/replaced banisters of the activity centre and the wooden structure of the boat house were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
10. Photographic evidence of the rubber matting tiles covering the uneven exposed ground concrete surface section to the side of the wooden boat house was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
11. Photographic evidence of the replaced tile in the outdoor area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Infection Control:

12. Photographic evidence of a refrigerator in the Senior Pre-school room for the storage of perishable items was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed again on the next 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)

The service provided evidence that there was a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Three staff had evidence of first aid training.

(2)(a)

In each playroom, there was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b)

The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were 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 fire fighting 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 for the Junior Pre-school room was dated 17th of April 2023.

The last recorded fire drill was for the Senior Pre-school room was dated 11th of May 2023.

(b)

Records were available in relation to the smoke and fire detection system with the annual service dated 30th of November 2022.

(4)

Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The annual service for the number, type, and maintenance of fire- fighting equipment had an expiry date of 7th of February 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a written response on 28th of June 2023 to advise of the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The annual service for the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment was carried out of the 15th of June 2023.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the annual service for the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment dated of 15th of June 2023 was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service's insurance was for a full day care service, catering for a maximum number of 44 children, with an expiry date for the 27th of March 2024 and included the following -

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

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(a)

From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.

The service's exterior walls, roof and foundation appeared to be structurally sound, weather/water-tight, to ensure protection from weather.

The interior floor, wall and ceiling appeared to be well finished, with no evidence of mould.

Drainage and septic tanks were inaccessible to children.

(b)

Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours.

Electrical sockets were safe.

On the day of inspection, the playroom temperatures were 18.2°C to 21.7 °C.

The service had an oil heating system with radiators thermostatically controlled.

Floor coverings were secured and non-slip.

(c)

There was natural lighting from the windows on the outer walls for each playroom.

The playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

(d)

The service had a cleaning schedule.

(e)

There were three designated staff toilets with three wash hand basins.

There were two toilets and two wash hand basins adjacent to the Senior Pre-school room.

There were three toilets and three wash hand basins adjacent to the Junior Pre-school room.

Non-Compliance Information

(e)

1. At 15.20hrs, in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Pre-school room, there was no warm water. It was noted by the early years' inspectors, that six taps in the Junior Pre-school sanitary area, were leaking requiring investigation and repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a written response on 28th of June 2023 to advise of the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. In the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Pre-school room, there is now warm water. The six taps in the Junior Pre-school sanitary area, have been repaired and replaced.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of thermostatically controlled warm water and the six new taps in the Junior Pre-school sanitary area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed.