

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN053		
Name of Service:	Tir na nOg Pre-School		
Address of Service:	Ishlaun, Ballaghadereen, Co. Roscommon		
Eircode:	F45 KN12		
Name of Registered Provider:	Eileen O'Grady-Jordan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	11 November 2022		
No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM 8
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 on the outskirts of the town of Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon. It is a purpose-built facility adjoining the registered providers' residence. The registered provider operates two sessions - a morning session from 8:45 am to 11.45pm and an afternoon session from 12:00 pm to 15:00 Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service is provided for children from 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age.

Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and works directly with the children. Three adults are employed in the service. Considering there are four adults in attendance in the morning session and three adults in the afternoon session, adequate relief can be provided in event of staff absence.

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 and safety*.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,18,19,23,25,26 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Additional Information

On the 15th of November 2022, an immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider regarding the security of the premises.

The main door and the door leading to the back of the premises from the preschool room had thumb lock devices fitted which were accessible by a preschool child and could pose the potential of a child accessing the front of the premises and the outdoor area posing a safety risk.

It is acknowledged and advised within the content of the report that the registered provider addressed the issue satisfactorily.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

1)(a) The registered provider was not on the premises upon the arrival of the early years inspectorate, however the designated deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection in her absence.

(b) The designated deputy person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Staff rosters indicated that either the registered provider or the deputy person in charge are 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 staff files were reviewed, and it was advised that only one new adult has commenced in the service since the previous inspection on 15/12/2020.

(a)(b) Two written validated references were on file for this adult and were provided from a past employers.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of this adult.

(d) The adult had police vetting on file for the period when she lived outside the jurisdiction for 6 months.

(4) The four staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 or over, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 the inspection there were three adults caring for seventeen children in the morning session aged between three to five years and three adults caring for eight children aged between two years ten months to five years until 1pm and two adults were present until 3pm.

(3) The appropriate adult/child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

From assessment of records, there are four adults in attendance for the morning session and three adults in attendance for the afternoon session on a daily basis.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the lobby notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons.

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

BASIC NEEDS:

- Hand washing was carried out regularly in the setting by the children with gentle reminders from the adults after toileting, prior to consuming snack and after messy play.
- The children sat at low tables for their morning snack accompanied by the adults in the preschool room.
- Adequate tables and chairs were provided for the children and they were encouraged to self-feed and assisted by the staff if necessary.
- A healthy eating policy was in place in the service. It was observed that the children in the morning session consumed their snack at 11am and it was advised by the adults that the children attending the afternoon session consumed their snack at 2pm. There was evidence of healthy eating with the children

consuming a selection of fresh fruit and vegetables to include apples, strawberries, grapes, carrots, celery, crackers, wraps, sandwiches, and yoghurts.

- The snack time was unhurried and the children were encouraged to be independent.
- There was a cosy area in the preschool room which could be adapted as a rest area for the children to rest or opt out of activities if they so wished.
- Children were encouraged by the adults to do things for themselves and be self-caring around their toileting needs.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the playroom and the enclosed sheltered space throughout the session.

Physical And Material Environment

The pre-school room was spacious, bright and colourful. The room was laid out with clearly defined areas of play to include a large storage cabinet with an abundance of arts and crafts supplies to include paint, glue, brushes foam shapes, scissors, glitter, sponges, paper and card. Large and small scale construction (plastic and wooden blocks and a large selection of work tools and a train track) and manipulative materials; picture books, problem solving toys (e.g. jigsaws), role and pretend play (e.g. a large play kitchen, dolls and accessories, a doll's house and accessories); messy play, small world toys and a garage (e.g. play animals, transport toys, play figures).

A soft seated area was provided for circle time activities and as a reading area should a child wish to relax or opt out of activities.

Wall art and visual displays added additional decorative features to the indoor play environment.

Low level tables and chairs were in place and low-level shelving with equipment and materials were accessible to the children. The outdoor play areas were located to the rear of the pre-school premises. It incorporated a large enclosed sheltered play area to enable children play in inclement weather, a grassed area and two cemented areas for children's play. The enclosed sheltered play area had a large climbing frame with a playhouse and an area was also assigned for messy play activities to include paint, chalk, sand and water play. A cement area was provided for bikes and trikes and a covered shelter was provided to store the bikes and trikes. An additional play space was also provided to the front of the enclosed sheltered play area with a selection of playhouses and mud kitchens and a grassed area was equipped with a seesaw, swing sets, slides and a small climbing frame was provided to the side of the enclosed play area.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic Needs

There was no privacy or dignity provided for the preschool children when using the toilet cubicles.

The service had erected shower curtains in these cubicles however, these had been removed. Shower curtains are no longer permitted as a means of provision of privacy and dignity and the cubicles must have appropriate doors fitted with securing devices to enable the children be afforded privacy and dignity.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider submitted a written response to state:

Two doors and locks have been fitted to the toilet cubicles.

Preventive action

The Registered provider and staff will ensure that doors are closed when children are using the toilets so that their dignity is respected.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted of the newly fitted doors in the cubicles in the sanitary accommodation.

Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive action and evidence submitted and deems it to meet compliance under Regulation 19.

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:

Children were observed to be actively supervised by the adults at all times when playing in the indoor and the enclosed outdoor play areas during the inspection.

Toys and play equipment were developmentally appropriate, kept in good repair and did not pose an injury risk to children.

Cleaning agents were stored in a high shelf in the sanitary accommodation inaccessible to a preschool child.

Infection control

The inspector observed that the children washed their hands regularly throughout the inspection to include upon arrival to the service, prior to consuming snack, after outdoor play and after toileting.

Suitable hand washing facilities were provided with supplies of liquid soap.

The playroom had hand sanitiser, cleaning products, personal protective equipment and lidded bins.

There were enhanced cleaning procedures in place with records of completed works maintained in the service. There was a dedicated area identified within the reception area for isolating an adult or child away from others in the event they became ill during the day.

This was equipped with a supply of PPE readily available. The pre-school room and sanitary areas were well ventilated with the windows open throughout the inspection.

Tabletops were cleaned immediately prior to children's snack break. Mouthed toys were removed after use and sterilised appropriately. The adults were observed regularly washing their hands including after disposing of tissues into bins. Fixtures, fittings and play resources were observed to be in a hygienic condition. The adults showed awareness of the services revised procedures including the management of suspected infection when questioned. Physical distancing measures were evident at the entrance to the service.

Administration of Medication:

There were no medications administered to the children on the day of the inspection.

It was advised by the staff presently no child is on medication. The staff demonstrated knowledge of safe practices with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication should it be required.

Fire safety

Monthly fire drills were carried out on the premises to ensure the children were familiar with the procedure in event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety

1. Thumb locks were fitted on the main door and the back door leading to the outdoor area which were accessible by a preschool child and could pose risk of a child gaining access to the outdoor area unsupervised. An immediate action notice was issued to the registered provider and a response was received with the actions taken to address the non-compliance.
2. The door leading from the preschool room to the registered providers main residence had no lock fitted to prevent the children gaining access to the main residence. It is acknowledged subsequent to the inspection of the service, a lock was fitted on this door.
3. A large trampoline was positioned to the front of the sheltered play area in the outdoor area and this was placed on a cement surface which could pose risk of injury to a child.
4. A pedal was missing from a tricycle which could pose risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

5. A cotton hand towel was used for hand drying purposes. This could pose risk of cross contamination.
6. The nappy changing mat was ripped and could prove difficult to effectively clean.
7. The children's lunch boxes containing perishable foods were stored in the reception area with a room temperature of 21.5°C which is in excess of the recommended safe temperature of 5°C.

Fire safety

8. The side door of the enclosed play area was locked and had no key readily available in event of an emergency. There were items stored in this area to include a bike and steam cleaner which could cause an obstruction in event of the service having to use this door as a means of escape in event of an emergency/fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider submitted a written response to state

General Safety:

1. A hook and eye have been fitted the main door back door and door that leads to the living quarters
2. A hook and eye has been fitted to the door leading from the preschool room to the registered providers main residence.
3. The trampoline has been removed.
4. The tricycle has been removed.

Infection control

5. Only disposable paper towels will be used.
6. A new changing mat has been purchased.
7. Children lunches are stored in the fridge and this has been conveyed to staff to ensure this happens.

Fire safety

8. The side door in the shed has been cleared of obstructions eg bike, steam cleaner and other toys the key hangs over the door and can be opened readily in event of an emergency.

Preventive action

1. The staff will ensure that the eye and hook are used on the main door and back door while service is in operation.
2. The staff will ensure the eye and hook are used on the door leading from the preschool room to the registered providers main residence.

3. Trampolines will not be part of the services outdoor activities.
4. The staff will ensure the outdoor equipment is maintained in good condition. The outdoor equipment check-sheets have been amended to include toy pedals.
5. Staff have been advised that only paper towels are to be used in staff toilets.
6. The changing mat has been included to cleaning checks to include condition.
7. The registered provider will ensure that all children's lunches containing perishable foods are stored in the refrigerator.
8. Service Provider will ensure that the area in-front of shed door is kept clear of obstructions.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence has been submitted to advise of

General Safety:

1. The locks fitted on the main door and the back door leading to the outdoor area
2. The lock fitted on the door from the preschool room to the registered provider's main residence
3. The removed trampoline
4. The removed tricycle

Infection control

5. The disposable hand towel dispenser
6. The new nappy changing mat
7. Children's lunches stored in the refrigerator

Fire Safety:

8. The cleared area at the side door of the shed

The revised checklist for the indoor and outdoor areas

Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under points 1 -8 have been adequately addressed. These will be reviewed on 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 a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Four adults had current training in first aid responder training.

(2)(a) The first aid cabinet was appropriately stocked with items safely stored and easily accessible by the adults in a conspicuous position in a locked press in the lobby area.

(b)The service demonstrated that the first aid cabinet was 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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 on 07/11/2022 for the morning and afternoon session.

(b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 04/03/2022.

The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 26/01/2022.

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

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(e) A separate dedicated wash basin for nappy changing was not available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

The registered provider submitted a written response to state:

A new wash hand basin has been installed in the toilet lobby for nappy changing.

Preventive action

Staff have been advised to use sink and facilities when changing nappies.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the newly fitted sink.

Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the action taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29(e) has been adequately addressed.