

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO024
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Name of Service:	Knock na Shee Preschool
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Address of Service:	Streamstown, Lavagh, Ballymote, Co. Sligo
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Eircode:	F56 WY27
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Name of Registered Provider:	Leo Coleman
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	10/01/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo
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

Knock-na-shee Preschool is a private owned preschool service, operating since 2007. The preschool provides a sessional service for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age from 9:15am to 12:15pm daily. The premises is situated in a community hall, located in a rural area of Co. Sligo. The service has an outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises where children have access to equipment and resources.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly in the service. There is one person in charge, working directly with the children each day. On the day of inspection there was one relief person available to the person in charge if required.

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 the following: Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment, Regulation 11 - Staffing levels, Regulation 18 – Copy of Act, Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 25 - First aid, and Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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, person in charge, 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*

(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 a named adult to provide relief in their absence.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) On the day of inspection, the records of two adults were reviewed.
- (a) One written and verified past employer reference was available in respect of the one of the adults.
 - (b) Three references from a source other than a past employer were available for two of the adults.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two adults. 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.
- (4) The records of the two adults evidenced major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 6 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. There was one person working directly with six children.

(3) The registered provider ensured that on the day of inspection, the adult to child ratio was always maintained at the minimum specified ratios.

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

The registered provider ensured that a copy of the regulations was available in the service. This was open to inspection on the premises when requested from the person in charge by the early years inspector.

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:

- Both entrances into the service were found to be secure upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, preventing unauthorised access to the service, and preventing children from exiting unaccompanied.
- The outside garden area was fenced and gated to ensure the children could not exit the premises unattended.
- Internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing areas not in use by the preschool.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed and easily accessed in the event of an emergency.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- Storage facilities and waste were not accessible to the children.
- Medicines were kept out of reach from children.
- Cleaning agents were stored high, out of reach from children.
- The hot water provided at the children's wash hand basins was controlled to a safe temperature below 43°C for hand washing.
- Children were closely supervised when accessing the kitchen area where lunch boxes were stored in the fridge.
- Electrical sockets were covered to prevent to access from children.
- Grapes in children's lunches were observed to be cut in half to prevent any risk of choking.
- The stage area of the hall was fenced off from the children to prevent any risk of climbing or falling.

Infection Control:

- The premises was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Soap was readily available to children to wash their hands prior to eating and after toileting. Handwashing was supervised by the adult to ensure all hands were cleaned effectively.
- Sanitary areas were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Tables were sanitised prior to children's snack time.

Administration of Medication:

- Medicines were found to be clearly labelled and in date, stored safely away from children.

Fire Safety:

- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.
- Fire doors were unobstructed on the day of inspection to ensure safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Two single person trampolines were observed in the outdoor area. Trampolines are prohibited items within an early childhood setting.
- Garda vetting was available for two adults. However, the 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'. It is acknowledged that a renewal of Garda Vetting disclosure was applied for on the day of inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The person acting on behalf of the registered provider advised in a written response that:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- Trampolines were immediately removed. Trampolines will not be used in future, and the service will keep updated regarding changes to what play items children can have access to.
- Up-to-date copies of garda vetting will be available on file for future inspections. Garda vetting for both adults had been stored on the office laptop which was not available on site on the day of inspection.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copy of in date vetting carried out within the previous three years was submitted for two adults.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the person acting on behalf of the registered provider have been reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate. This regulation is now compliant.

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

The registered provider ensured that.

(2) (a) (b).

The first aid equipment was readily available and safely stored in a conspicuous position in the service. The products enclosed were observed to be in date.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that there was an adult immediately available at all times to the children with First Aid Responder for Children (FAR Training)

- The certificate on file for the person in charge expired in July 2023.
- FAR training certificate for relief person was not available on the day of inspection.

It is acknowledged that paediatric first aid training was submitted, and evidence of training been secured for FAR training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The person acting on behalf of the registered provider advised in a written response that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

FAR course has been booked for August 2024. FAR will be kept up to date going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Evidence of paediatric first aid submitted.
- (2) Evidence of FAR training being secured for August 2024 received.
- (3) The relief person is no longer available to the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

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Summary Comment

This non-compliance will remain outstanding as a person with first aid responder training, is not always available to the children. The registered provider will submit evidence of training to the inspectorate office on completion and will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service had a certificate of insurance valid until the 27th of March 2024 showing that adequate insurance cover was in place for the service's maximum number of 22 children.