

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO045								
Name of Service:	Northside Community Playschool								
Address of Service:	Northside Resource Centre, Forthill, Sligo, Co. Sligo F91 N778								
Email Address:	northsidecdp@eircom.net								
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Denise Carty								
Type of Service Registered:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sessional</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						
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Date of Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	1	3	1	2	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>6</td> <td>PM</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	AM	6	PM	-				
AM	6	PM	-						
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Services, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo. F91 XC84								
Inspection undertaken by:	Fiona Carty Sabrina Mc Kenna								
Title:	Early Years Inspectors								

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
REF: EYIRSESS03-2017 : Version 12: Mar 2021
1.0

Description of Service	<p>Northside Community Playschool was first notified as an early years' service in 1997. It is governed by a non-profit company titled Northside Community Group Ltd. The service is registered to provide full day care to a maximum of 18 children aged 3 to 6 years. Children are currently attending the service on a sessional only basis from 9:00am to 12:15pm weekdays for the school year.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from within a community centre premises in the town of Sligo. The playgroup occupies one room with access to dedicated sanitary accommodation for the service. There is a fenced outdoor play area provided to the side of the building. The children have access to a large indoor hall and an art room within the community building.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are three adults employed in the service. All three adults hold a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Fetac level 5 and 6. The Registered Provider is involved in the day-to-day operation of the service.</p>
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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:

(2)

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of two staff who had been employed since the last inspection.

- (a) and (b) Two validated written references from previous employers were available for two staff members.
- (c) Evidence of completed Garda Vetting disclosure was available for two staff members.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the one staff member who had resided outside the state for a period longer than 6 months.

(4)

The two adults working directly with the preschool children held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 and level 6 on the national Qualifications Framework.

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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information:

- (1)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service on the day of the inspection.
- (3)
There were six children in attendance on the day of the inspection being cared for by three adults. The children in attendance were aged 3 years and above. The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection.

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:

- The preschool service provided children with a morning snack at 10:30am daily which consisted of fruit and a drink. Apples and bananas were served to children on the day of the inspection. Children take in a packed lunch from home, which is stored within a fridge in the preschool room and is provided to the children at 11:30am daily.
- The adults accompany the children to the sanitary accommodation which is across the hallway from the preschool room. The adults were observed to encourage children to use the toilet independently.
- Tissues were available to children throughout the preschool room encouraging self-care practises.
- Aprons were provided for messy play activities.
- A soft mat area was provided within the preschool room should a child wish to rest during the preschool session.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The adults resolved minor disputes among the children, using positive language and praise and encouragement when required.
- The adults displayed positive regard for children's interests and facilitated any play and activities the children requested such as water-play and painting.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The children were observed to be familiar with the preschool routine. Children were observed to be actively involved and engaged in activities of their own choice at all times throughout the inspection. The adults supported children if and when they needed help, while also encouraging independence.
- The adults worked well together, providing seamless transitions from one activity to another for the children.
- Communication with parents is a mixture of written documents given to parents and through face-to-face conversations at collection and drop off times.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Designated interest areas were available including a home corner area, sand tray, a large wall mounted chalk board, water tray, painting area, creative art area, and a book area. A variety of table top activities were available to the children on low level shelving throughout the preschool room.
- The walls in the preschool room displayed art work activities carried out by the children.
- The children have access to an enclosed outdoor area with grass and tarmac surfacing. The registered provider informed the inspectors that his area will be developed in the coming months. The children also access the local sports fields behind the preschool service where large grass playing fields and a walking track are available. An indoor hall is available for use by the children to use which is set up with slides and a climbing activity centre prior to the children's use. A container which contained a variety of cones, balls, small push trucks and skipping ropes was available to the children.
- The tables and chairs provided within the preschool environment were suitable for the child's age and stage of development.

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:

- Upon the inspectors arrival to the preschool service the main door to the community hall was locked. The person on reception alerted preschool staff and a member of staff greeted the inspectors and granted access to the building.
- The children were adequately supervised at all times throughout the preschool inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment and materials provided for the children’s use were observed to be maintained in a safe and clean manner. Cleaning schedules were in place and up to date. • Cleaning products in the sanitary accommodation were stored out of children’s reach. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap and warm running water were available for handwashing. • Hand sanitising stations and posters demonstrating information about covid 19, social distancing markers and signs and symptoms were displayed throughout the preschool room and community hall. • Playdough was made fresh daily and disposed of at the end of each preschool session. • Children were closely supervised by the adults during handwashing after using the sanitary accommodation and before snack times. <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No children attending the preschool service are currently receiving medication, however staff area aware of the procedures to follow should the need arise. <p>FIRE SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire exits were kept clear from obstruction throughout the inspection. The designated fire assembly point is located at the front entrance of the community building.
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>OUTINGS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The risk assessments carried out prior to outdoor play in the sports play fields were not completed. The registered provider stated that the children had accessed the area two weeks ago. No record was available to demonstrate that an adequate risk assessment had taken place prior to the use of this area by the children, or the procedure to follow during the outing, therefore posing a risk to children. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. There were no pedal bins provided in the preschool room or sanitary accommodation for use by the preschool children. The swing top bins in place posed a risk of cross contamination. 3. There were no single use paper towels available to the children. Kitchen roll was being used which posed a risk of cross contamination. 4. The mechanical ventilation in the sanitary accommodation contained dust and debris and was not in working order.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION

OUTINGS:

1. A written risk assessment of the park area was created by the staff team and identified all the hazards the staff felt could be potential dangers during an outing to the field with the children and put into immediate use.

INFECTION CONTROL:

2. The service purchased two pedal bins, one for the play room facility and the other for the toilet facility area.
3. We have installed a paper towel dispenser unit in our playroom facility and toilet facilities.
4. The mechanical ventilation system in the toilet facility has been cleaned and is in working order.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

OUTINGS:

1. A member of the playschool team will carry out a written risk assessment of the park area, by walking around the area before each outing will take place.

INFECTION CONTROL:

2. Pedal bins will be cleaned and maintained daily in order to minimise the risk of cross contamination in our preschool service.
3. We will ensure that the paper towel dispensers are filled and maintained.
4. We will ensure that the vent is checked and cleaned regularly. We will also keep a cleaning report.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

OUTINGS:

1. A copy a risk assessment for an outing in the field area which took place on the 17/12/21 was submitted.

INFECTION CONTROL:

2. Photographic evidence of the two pedal bins, and receipt of purchase was submitted to the inspector on the 21st December 2021.
3. Photographic evidence was submitted to the early years inspectorate on the 21st December 2021.
4. An invoice of works carried out to replace the mechanical ventilation system with a new one was submitted on the 3rd February 2022.

Summary Comment:

The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on the date stated above, demonstrates that the non-compliances noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 23 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

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 all three staff were trained in first aid for children and were available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible position, in the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information:

(2)

(b) Items contained within the first aid box required replenishing as they were out of date and not stored in their original packaging.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

CORRECTIVE ACTION

We have dispersed of out-of-date materials and replenished the first aid box with new first Aid materials.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

The service will inspect our first Aid box monthly to ensure that all its contents are in date and in their original packaging.

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED

Photographic of new items purchased was submitted to the inspectorate on 21st December 2022.

Summary Comment:

The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on 21st December 2021, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 25 (2) (b) has been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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:	<p>(1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A written record was available detailing that monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill recorded was dated 17th November 2021. (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced in December 2021. <p>(4)</p> <p>The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the preschool room and throughout the building.</p>
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