

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO056		
Name of Service:	Spraoi		
Address of Service:	Ballymote Community Childcare Co, Pearse Road, Ballymote, Co. Sligo		
Eircode:	F56 D439		
Name of Registered Provider:	Michelle Gorman		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	04/07/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84.		
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and F Carty		
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

Spraoi is a not for profit full day care service which was established in 2007. The service is located in a rural area within the village of Ballymote County Sligo. Care and Education are provided to the children aged between 0-6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 07.30 to 18.00.

The service operates from a purpose-built building consisting of four playrooms. On the day of inspection only three rooms were in operation. To the rear of the property is four interconnecting outdoor areas.

Staffing

There are 22 adults employed in the service of which 17 are working directly with children. Three staff work in the kitchen, one staff member works in administration and the operational manager.

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, 19, 20, 23, 25,26 and 28. 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (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) (b) (c)

There was a designated person in charge in the service and a named person to deputise as required. There was clear lines of governance within the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

2. (a) (b)

The records of 22 staff employed in the service were reviewed.

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of all 22 staff members employed in the service.

(c)

A garda vetting disclosure was available for all 22 staff members employed in the service.

(d)

International police vetting was available for 5 staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Fifteen staff members employed and working directly with the children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 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.

Non-Compliance Information

2. (d) There were no international police vetting documentation for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a consecutive period of six months or more as an adult.

(4)

There was insufficient documentary evidence available on file to demonstrate that one staff member had attained major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2). (d). The registered provider provided evidence of application for police vetting for the one staff member who had lived outside the state for a consecutive period of six months or more as an adult.

(4). The registered provider provided documentary evidence of qualification achieved for the staff member that there was no evidence on file for. The registered provider has made assurances that this will be in place going forward for all employees.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the corrective and preventative actions submitted for the non-compliances found upon inspection in relation to regulation 9 has been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of staff members working directly with children attending the service. There were ten staff members working directly with 34 children in the morning and ten staff members caring for 27 children in the afternoon.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day of 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, and

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

The service promoted a healthy eating policy and food was freshly prepared daily on site. On the day of inspection morning snack included fresh fruit and yoghurt. Dinner consisted of chicken potato and broccoli and afternoon snack consisted of freshly made banana bread and fruit. Children were supported to be independent at mealtimes with appropriate utensils for the age and stage of development of the child. Bibs were used to protect the younger children's clothes during mealtimes and highchairs were used in the baby room for the comfort and safety of babies during mealtime. The atmosphere during mealtime was relaxed, with pleasant interaction among the children and staff members. Drinking water was freely available throughout the day.

Children who were toilet trained were supported and encouraged to use the toilet as needed by the staff members. Child friendly picture stories were displayed on the wall of the bathroom, guiding the child through the process of independent toileting. Nappy changing observed ensured that the dignity and privacy of each child was respected, nappy changing was undertaken regularly and more frequently if required as staff responded to the children's cues.

The children's individual sleep needs were met within the service. Transitions to sleep time was observed to be smooth and peaceful, with low level lighting, soft music playing and story time prior to rest.

The children guided the program of care and education in the service. Staff responded well to the learning needs of the children and documented the learning stories for the children attending the service. One example in a journal reviewed was where a child had pointed to an aeroplane in the sky. This prompted staff members to teach the children about aeroplanes and travelling including artwork and storytelling. Staff members were observed being respectful gentle and kind in their interactions with the children.

Children were spoken to respectfully; appropriate eye contact was maintained. Babies were observed being held and cuddled and the staff caring for them interacted in a playful gentle manner. The staff managed children's behaviour in a positive manner with praise and encouragement given to the children by staff for positive behaviour. Minor disagreements between children were managed sensitively and deescalated quickly. The service took measures to support children's relationships including displaying photographs of children's families. Records were kept for sharing information with parents/guardians in relation to the younger children's eating, drinking nappy changing and sleep during the day. This information was shared with the parents/guardian daily and opportunity was provided for parents to give feedback as required.

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 19 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.*

Compliance Information

(1) (a) (b)

The service has provided adequate, appropriate, and safe facilities to meet children's needs for rest and sleep. All rooms are equipped with soft furnishings to ensure children can rest and sit in a quite comfortable area and opt out of an activity if they choose. Cots are provided for those children under two years of age and low-level beds are available for the older children. All cots and beds meet the recognised safety standards.

The service is well resourced with materials and toys suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. Care rooms are clean, organised and free of clutter. Interest areas have been provided in all care rooms suitable to the age and stage of the children. The outdoor area offers four distinct areas of play, which are supplied with materials and toys that are safe and secure, suitable to the age of the children availing of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The main entrance into the service was found to be secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service. This prevented unauthorised access to the service and prevented unsupervised exit from the service.
- All gates in the service were secure.
- Toys materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children.
- The Kitchen area was inaccessible to the preschool children on the day of inspection.
- All highchairs were fitted with harnesses safety straps that were in working order.
- Leads and flex were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.
- The outdoor area consisted of high-level fencing and gates secured access to the main road at the front of the building.

Infection Control:

- Adequate handwashing facilities were provided in the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior and after mealtimes and before and after messy play.
- The materials and resources throughout the playrooms were visibly clean, with cleaning schedules in place and updated.
- Children were observed to wash their hands regularly including before mealtimes, following nappy changes or toilet use, after outdoor play and following messy play.
- Child friendly hand washing posters with picture instructions were placed above wash basins.
- Children's nappies were changed regularly and as required in line with policy.
- Bed linen was washed daily after individual use.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no administration of medication on the day of inspection.
- There was an administration of medication policy in place and staff were aware of their responsibilities in administering, recording and informing parents of any administration.

Safe Sleep:

- The service provided standard cots for under twos and low-level beds for older children.
- Cellular blankets were provided for under twos.
- Rest areas were provided in each of the care rooms to facilitate children to rest or opt out of an activity.

Fire Safety:

- All fire doors were kept free from obstruction.
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in all care rooms.
- The assembly point was clearly displayed.
- Fire evacuation drills took place regularly.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. There were no foot operated bins in the nappy changing area, resulting in a risk of cross contamination if handled. Disposable nappies should be disposed of in a foot operated, lined, lidded bin that is leak proof, sealable and easy to clean.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The Registered provider has submitted evidence of the use of a foot operated, lined and lidded bin that is sealable and easy to clean for use for the disposal of nappies. The registered provider has made assurances that foot operated bins will be in use going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The evidence and the corrective and preventive actions submitted for the non-compliance found upon inspection in relation to regulation 23 has been reviewed by the inspector and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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

(2) (a)(b) A suitably equipped first aid box is located in all rooms in the service, ensuring first aid is available to the children attending the service at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) Five staff members First aid responder training was out of date by one month. It is acknowledged that the person in charge informed inspectors at the closing meeting that first aid refresher training has been arranged.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has submitted details of refresher training for staff members who's first aid responder training was out of date. The registered provider has made assurances that this will be monitored going forward and training will be completed before the expiration of certificates.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of completed training to be submitted

Summary Comment

The evidence and the corrective and preventative actions submitted for the non-compliances found on in inspection in relation to regulation 25 have been accepted and will be reviewed on next inspection

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) The service had a record of their monthly fire evacuation drills. The last drill was recorded on the 15.06.2023.
- (b) The service held records of maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms. The last service date recorded as February 2023.
- (2) (c) The record was made available for inspection to an authorised person.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures are displayed in all care rooms in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27.03.2023. The insurance provided cover for 80 children attending on a full care basis.