

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO061		
Name of Service:	Temple Tots		
Address of Service:	Ardagelly, Templeboy, Co. Sligo		
Eircode:	F91 D797		
Name of Registered Provider:	Angela Burns		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	02/10/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM 12
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		
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

Temple Tots is a private owned full day care early years service. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years, operating from 9.00am to 6pm five days per week. The service operates from a standalone 2 storey building located next to the providers home, in a rural area of Sligo. There are two main care rooms, a kitchenette and sanitary accommodation available for the services use. An outdoor play area is available to the rear and side of the building. School Age Childcare is also provided.

Staffing

There is a total of four adults employed within the service to work directly with the children, to include the registered provider. All staff who work directly with the children hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) minimum Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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, safety and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,17,21,23,25 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 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*

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2) (a) (b).

The records of all four adults employed in the service were reviewed.

Eight written and verified past employer references or references from another source in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of all four adults employed in the service.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the four adults employed in the service.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as all four adults employed in the service had not lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(3)

These vetting procedures had been completed prior to an adult having access to or working directly with the preschool children.

(4)

The four adults employed in the service 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.

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 adults working directly with the children attending the preschool service. There were three adults working directly with 22 children in the morning of the unannounced inspection and three adults working directly with 12 children in the afternoon.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The registered provider has ensured that parents of children proposing to attend the service are given the necessary information. The registered provider gives parents a 'parent statement' and handbook at enrolment which includes necessary information such as the type of care provided, fees for the year and the facilities available. The registered provider provides copies of the service policies and procedures including the healthy eating policy and safeguarding policy. A notice board at the entrance to the service provides information on the staff members working with the preschool children including their qualifications. Other information displayed on the notice board include the calendar and opening hours for the year, the adult child ratios and important health information.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service has two designated indoor spaces for the preschool children. In the Montessori room on the ground floor the room is laid out to stimulate the child’s imagination, with a wide variety of equipment and resources stored on open low-level shelving to allow for the children to direct their own play. The home corner is equipped with real life resources including play kitchen, crockery and food. Construction areas include cars, trucks, blocks and farm machinery. Arts and crafts were stored on low level shelving and the children’s artwork decorated the walls. Specialist Montessori equipment stored on accessible shelving offered stimulation exploration and imagination. Jigsaws and puzzles allowed for the development of fine motor skills. Upstairs the rooms were equally well laid out and the equipment in these rooms were suitable to the age and stage of the younger child. One room was equipped with resources to support creativity and imagination with arts and crafts and sensorial equipment. Open shelving stored jigsaws and puzzles. A nature table provided a selection of natural materials accessible for the children to explore. The second room upstairs was equipped with a variety of toys for the children including dress up stations, musical instruments, dolls and soft toys. A corner of this room equipped with soft matting and cushions provided a rest area for the preschool children.

In the outdoor area there was a variety of equipment to aid gross motor skill development including tyres for climbing and balancing, balance bikes, trikes and footballs. Playhouses and picnic benches allowed for role and imaginative play. All equipment observed was well maintained and in good working order.

Children’s tables and chairs were available for snack times and tabletop activities, this equipment was child sized and durable suitable to the preschool children.

The service had taken measures to ensure all children were included in all activities and to make this as easy as possible visual stories were displayed on the walls of the service introducing the children to the service and the plan for the day. Visual stories were also displayed in the bathroom demonstrating how to wash hands and use the bathroom.

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 service was secure on the inspectors unannounced arrival. A bell entry system ensured there was no unauthorised visitors to the service.
- A wooden fence with locked gates secured the outdoor perimeter space.
- Cleaning products were stored out of the reach of preschool children.
- The kitchen was secured and inaccessible to the preschool child.
- Toys and resources were in a good condition and well maintained.

Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available for safe hand hygiene practices. Children were observed to wash hands prior to snack time and after coming in from outdoor play.
- The care rooms were visibly clean with cleaning schedules in place. On the day staff were observed to clean tables and sweep floors prior and post snack time and messy play.

Administration of Medication:

- There was no medication administered on the day however on interview staff were knowledgeable about the service medication policy and the procedures to follow if a child required medication.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors remained unobstructed throughout the inspection.
- Fire evacuation plans were clearly displayed in the care rooms.
- The fire assembly point was clearly marked to the front of the property.

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 registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in first aid responder available to the children at all times. On the day three adults employed in the service had first aid responder training in date.

(2)(a) (b)

A first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location and available to the children if required. The first aid box was stocked with a variety of suitable equipment for the use in the preschool.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service provided adequate insurance for 33 children in a full day care service up until the 27th of March 2025.