

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY095				
Name of Service:	Cahir Park Pre-School				
Address of Service:	Ardfinnan Road, Cahir, Tipperary.				
Eircode:	E21 R966				
Name of Registered Provider:	David Byrne				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	08/06/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>25</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	25	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary.				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Cullen				
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 community service was established in 2012 and offers sessional education and care to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates 38 weeks per year, 9.00am to 12:00pm. The service is located on the second floor of Cahir Athletic Football Club's Clubhouse, on the outskirts of Cahir town. The service has two early years rooms and sanitary accommodation. The service has access to outdoor play amenities within the grounds and the adjacent woodland park. A sensory room has also been developed in a building off the outdoor play area.

Staffing

There are currently six staff members employed in the service. Four staff members were working directly with children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 11, 19, 25, 26 and 28. As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spent in the indoor and outdoor environments.

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 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

(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

Files for six staff members employed by the service were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b) Two references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source. Eight of the twelve reference available were validated by the service.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member.

(4) A certificate of qualification was available on file demonstrating that five out of the six staff members held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) Four validated references were not available for two staff members from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

(2)(d) International police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

(4) A component certificate was available on file for one staff member. The record did not confirm that the staff member held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at minimum Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) The references have now been obtained and put on staff member's file. Board are now aware that references must be made available for all staff members on immediate start date.

(2)(d) Police vetting has been sourced for staff member living outside of the country for over 6 months. Board have been informed of this issue and will ensure that police vetting is obtained in future.

(4) The staff member has ceased working in the service. Board will ensure to hire staff with qualifications recognised on the National framework of qualifications in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Four references for each of two staff members.

International police vetting.

Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.
- (3) The staff to child ratios were maintained as follows: 25 children aged 2 to 6 years were cared for by 4 staff.

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*

Compliance Information

Staff members were observed to engage attentively with children. They were involved in play with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to the children as they spoke. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the children's needs and interests; children were provided with the autonomy and choice to make decisions about what and who they played with. Small group activities in the outdoor play area were observed to take place spontaneously and children joined them out of curiosity and of their own accord.

Some of the small group activities observed were balance bike races, soccer skills and a guessing game. The guessing game involved the children using their sense of touch and listening skills as a staff member got them to guess which child was beside them while their eyes were closed.

Strategies were in place to support children transition from one activity to the next. For example, from outdoors to indoors and before snack. A visual helper chart was observed in use, children had a weekly rota of responsibilities such as handing out lunches, ring the bell and line leader.

Children's identity and belonging was fostered through the display of works of art and their recent learning. Displays of children's work were observed in many areas of the building including the stairwell and lobby areas, in addition to the main classroom space.

The service has made links with the local community. They recently completed the wibbly wobbly bike scheme and actively explored their local area during walks of the neighbouring park. Supporting the children attending the service to make connections with the wider community. Parents are involved in activities such as the end of year trip to a nearby farm.

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) There was a person trained in first aid available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available for the use of the children attending the early years 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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a record of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The most recent fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 18 May 2023.

(b) There was a record available demonstrating that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 03 April 2023 and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on 06 January 2023.

(4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed beside the emergency exit door on the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of adequate insurance cover was in place for the numbers of children attending the service. The insurance policy commenced 28 March 2023 and will expire 27 March 2024.