

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY120				
Name of Service:	Kilsheelan Playschool				
Address of Service:	Unit 5 Ivowen Complex, Kilsheelan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary				
Eircode:	E91 VP28				
Name of Registered Provider:	Barbara Byrne				
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	19/01/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>12</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	12	PM	N/A
AM	12	PM	N/A		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary.				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Cullen and N Thornton				
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	N/A
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Description of service

Kilsheelan Playschool is a privately owned part-time early years service. The service is located on the first floor of Ivowen business complex in the village of Kilsheelan, in South Tipperary. The service comprises of two linked care rooms, sanitary accommodation, and an office. The service has access to an outdoor play area off site, which was located across the road in the K-Plan Community Centre. The early years service is registered to provide a part-time service from 09:00 to 14:00 hours, which includes the provision of a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) session from 09:30 to 12:30. On the day of inspection the service was operating on a sessional basis. A registered school aged childcare service is also provided.

Staffing

There were two staff members present on the inspectors' arrival. Later in the morning the registered provider arrived to assist with the inspection process. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 5 and 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included both classrooms.

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.

Additional Information

This inspection was to review a condition attached to the service on 23 August 2023. The condition was originally placed on the service for 3 months and extended following inspection on 19 October 2023 until 23 January 2023.

Part III, Article (9 7) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016

The Registered Provider is required to:

Ensure all persons governing and working in the setting are informed, trained and sufficiently knowledgeable to work within the requirements of the policies, procedures and statements of the service.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

(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.*

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

Compliance Information

(2) On review of the staff roster and discussion with staff members it was established that no new preschool staff members had been recruited since the last inspection on 19 October 2023.

(7) There was evidence available that all staff members had completed Tusla’s online Quality and Regulatory Framework training. Weekly staff meetings were documented which included review of policies and implementation of new protocols. The registered provider and staff members confirmed that staff meetings are scheduled at regular intervals to plan and share information in the future.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the following: policy on healthy eating, and policy on safe sleep. These policies and procedures were appropriate and specific to the setting.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children.

(2) The staff to child ratios were maintained as follows, there were 12 children aged 2 to 6 years being cared for by 2 staff.

(8)(a) Staff members and the documented roster confirmed that there were two staff members rostered during the hours of operation of the early years service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

The staff roster was available on the day of inspection and reflected the staff members present. There was adequate detail on the rostered hours for each staff member, cover for lunch breaks and designated persons in charge.

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

Infection Control:

Infection control issues in relation to waste management which had been identified on previous inspections had been resolved by the registered provider. Suitable foot pedal operated bins were available in all areas of the service where required.

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.

Compliance Information

A person certified in a recognised PHECC First Aid Response (FAR) was available on the premises on the day of inspection. Staff members trained in FAR were detailed on the staff roster.