

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY145
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Name of Service:	Spraoui Playschool
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Address of Service:	Reddanswalk, Dundrum Road, Tipperary Town, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E34 PY01
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Comerford
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Glenmorgan Building, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Co Tipperary E91RF38
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Inspection undertaken by:	Antoinette McNamara
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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	N/A
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Description of service

This privately owned service is operated from a premises in the registered provider's own home. This is a part time service which also offers a sessional early years care and education scheme (ECCE) to children aged 2 years and 8 months to 6 years of age. The service is open from 09:00 to 14:00 daily, Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year. The service consists of a large early years room, children's sanitary accommodation, a staff toilet, and a large outdoor area.

Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and works directly with the children. Two staff members are also employed in the service. All staff working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in early childhood care and education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 16 (1) (h, k) Record in relation to pre-school service,

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play

Regulation 22 Food and drink

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 28 Insurance.

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, 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.

(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) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and a named deputy designated person in charge is available to deputise, as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present for the inspection.

The staff files for three staff were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for each staff member working at the service.

(b) Where past employer references were not available, there were references from sources such as previous schools and colleges.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member working in the service. In the case of two staff members, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(4) Certificates of qualifications for the staff working directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Out of state police vetting was not available for one staff member.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Out of state vetting was applied for in relation to one staff member.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email of application sent to Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for one staff member for International Police Vetting was reviewed however; a copy of the completed International Police vetting has not been submitted to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The non-compliance in relation to regulation 9(2)(d) remains out outstanding.

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 adequate staffing levels to respond to the children's needs on the day of inspection.

(2) The adult child ratios during the day of inspection were above the minimum regulatory requirements. There was 3 staff members working with 16 children.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)(h) Daily attendance records were sampled and were found to meet the necessary requirements.
- (k) A total of 12 accident and incident records were sampled and deemed satisfactory.

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 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.

(2) A registered provider-

- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The indoor space was a large classroom with a cosy corner and direct access to a secure outdoor area. There was low-level shelving with jigsaws. The furniture was suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service. There were child sized tables and chairs for tabletop activities such puzzles and eating at snack time. There was a wide variety of toys such as building blocks, dolls, a home corner, dressing table, and farm animals. There was a large well stocked reading area and a child size couch. There were arts and craft

materials available to the children. The children’s arts and crafts decorated the walls. At one end of the room was a large window where the children had grown cress.

(b) There was a cosy corner in the room where the children could rest if they wished.

(2) There were several outdoor spaces available to the children. These areas were secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised. Two areas were directly accessible from the classroom. One of these areas was covered and could be used in all weathers. Distinct areas of interest provided children with a wide range of opportunities to engage in play activities. There was a well-developed and resourced mud kitchen, a covered sandpit, a large selection of ride on toys, a balance beam and a range of open-ended resources were available for use by the children. There was a bug hotel, a maize and a dome available to the children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy. All foods eaten by the children were supplied by their parents. Staff supervised children during snack time to help if needed, for example with opening lunch boxes and to encourage conversation. Foods eaten at snack time on morning of the inspection included: berries, bread sticks, yogurts, sandwiches, cheese and fruit. The children were independently able to access the fridge and get their own lunches. The table was also set by the children. The children had refillable bottles which they were able to access. These were refilled with water as required.

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 premises was adequately secured to prevent children leaving unsupervised and unauthorised persons gaining access. The entrance door to the service had to be opened by a staff member. The outdoor play areas were secured to prevent children leaving.

Infection control:

The service was clean and well maintained. Staff and children were observed to follow good hand hygiene practices such as washing hands before eating. There were two sinks in the activity room as well as in the sanitary accommodation area to facilitate hand washing. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand washing. Tables were disinfected before and after snack time. Pedal bins were available in the service. Perishable foods were stored in a fridge.

Non-Compliance Information

General safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures for two staff members were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Renewed Garda vetting was applied for both staff members.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the renewed Garda vetting was sent via email to the Early Years Inspector.

Summary Comment

Corrective actions have been accepted and will be assessed in practice on next inspection.

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 were staff trained in first aid responder (FAR) available to the children attending the service.
- (2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position.
- (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An in-date insurance certificate was available for inspection to demonstrate that valid insurance was in place.