

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY158				
Name of Service:	Tumbletots Playschool				
Address of Service:	25 Ashlawn, Clerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary				
Eircode:	E91 PN20				
Name of Registered Provider:	George Hahessy				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	07/09/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>18</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	18	PM	N/A
AM	18	PM	N/A		
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

Tumbletots Playschool is located in the village of Clerihan in South Tipperary. A sessional programme is provided for children aged 2 to 6 years of age, Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 12:00pm, 38 weeks per year. The premises is a single storey purpose-built extension off the registered provider's residence. The service consists of an early years room, sanitary accommodation and an outdoor play area to the rear of the building.

Staffing

There were three staff members working directly with children on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work directly with children in the service. Staff members held qualifications in Early Childhood Education and Care at Level 6 and 8 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, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 (2)(4) Management and Recruitment, 11 (1)(3) Staffing Levels and 19 (1) Health Welfare and Development of the Child. However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed significant risk was identified under Regulation 23 Safety. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 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

Documentation was reviewed for the three staff members employed by the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

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

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

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

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 above the minimum requirements. There were 18 children aged 2 to 6 years being cared for by 3 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*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a)
- Staff members were observed to support children who had recently started in the service during their settling in period. An individual approach was taken to ensure the transition from home to preschool was as smooth as possible for each child. A self-registration system was in place, children removed their dedicated item from the attendance board and placed it in a post box. This activity also offered opportunity to reflect on peers who were not in attendance on the day.

Strategies were also in place to support children transition from one activity to the next. For example, from indoors to outdoors and before morning snack. Verbal warnings were given at intervals before a transition occurred and during clean-up for example. A visual daily routine was displayed in a prominent place for children to engage with.

During morning free play staff members sat with children in small groups or individually. Play was child-led and adult support was offered to children when required. The environment and resources were set up to ensure children had autonomy to make choices about what and who they played with. Circle time provided children with an opportunity to explore and discuss their emotions. A discussion was had about 'what makes me happy'.

Parent and guardian communication during collection and drop off periods, provided an opportunity for staff to share information with parents. Additional methods of communication such as phone calls, messaging applications and email were used to share information, pictures and observations.

The service had made links with the local community. The service had a display of learning from last term, which included a visit from a local postman and Garda. Supporting the children attending the service to make connections with the wider community. The service had also participated in the wibbly wobbly bike scheme in conjunction with Tipperary Sports Partnership.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Perishable food items such as yogurts, cooked meats and cheese were stored in children's bag. They were not refrigerated in the countertop fridge available.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

A new fridge has been purchased by the service and placed in the classroom. Each day staff remove all items requiring refrigeration from the children's lunchboxes on arrival and they are placed in the fridge until the until lunchtime.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographs confirming purchase of fridge and fridge in use.

Summary Comment

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