

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WW117

Name of Service: Kids Aloud

Address of Service: 16 Parkmore, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow

Eircode: W91 RY20

Name of Registered Provider: Liam MacGabhann

Service type: Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 31/01/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road, Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

Description of service

This service is a community based, non-profit sessional pre-school. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age. The service is located in two purpose-built pre-school rooms to the rear of an adapted 2 storey house in Baltinglass Co. Wicklow. A secure outdoor play area is located to the rear of the pre-school and parking is available outside the service. The service also operates a breakfast club and after school care for school aged children. The hours of operation are from 09.00am to 01.00pm Monday to Friday and the service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

The registered provider is the current chairperson of the Board of Management and does not work directly with the children. Five members of staff are employed in the service and one relief staff member.

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.

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 manager, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”

Compliance Information

A total of five full time staff are employed in the pre-school service and one relief staff member, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

On the day of inspection, the manager was present and a named person was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The manager was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

The management structure within the service was clear as were the responsibilities of each employee.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of six adults.

(c)

Completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for six adults employed.

(d)

There was international police vetting available for one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

Six members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6A)

One adult was employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion model.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

International police vetting was not available for one adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d)

A form was downloaded from www.acro.police.uk. The Staff member has applied for her Police Vetting from the U.K.

The Board of Management will ensure that Police vetting for new employees that worked abroad, will be in place before commencement of employment in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d)

None supplied with CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions will correct the non-compliance found on inspection in relation to Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (2)(d) but to date the non-compliance remains 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.

(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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
There were five adults employed and present with nineteen children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)
There were two adults present on the premises throughout the inspection and this was confirmed by the staff roster.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

The manager ensured that a record in writing of the above list of particulars, was kept in respect of each child attending the pre-school service.

(3)(c)

The manager ensured that these records were available for inspection to an authorised person.

(5)

The manager had evidence that all children's records were kept for a period of 2 years from the time a child started at the pre-school.

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-

(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

The manager ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were given the opportunity for free play during the morning, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the day.

The transition between one activity and the next was smooth and unhurried, aided by the language used by the adults to the children. Positive reinforcement of children's behaviour contributed to a pleasant environment for the children in the service. One to one attention was given to a child when required, in addition, support was given to children so that they remained included in activities they maybe have been unsure or unfamiliar with. A strong ethos of teamwork was evident in the pre-school through observation of how staff members worked together. The relationships between the adults and children reflected a sense of belonging, inclusion, connectedness and diversity.

The snack time was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children, all children sat on low level chairs at a table, and conversation was encouraged.

Children were addressed by their name and were given plenty of time to eat their food. All food was provided by the parents of the children in the service.

The service had a cosy area in each pre-school room, with rugs and chairs for children to use should they require it during their day.

Childrens parents are spoken to on an individual basis at collection time. Parents are encouraged to make direct contact with the service, should they have any concerns or issues.

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

There was a large variety of suitable equipment and materials to support various forms of play. Table and chairs were all matching, well maintained and age appropriate for the children in the service. The furniture in the rest areas was comfortable, clean and durable.

The outdoor area was suitably equipped with mobile toys, push bikes, slides, climbing frames and a fixed wooden train with carriages for the imaginative play. The outdoor area was suitable, safe and secure.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The manager ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out daily.

(3)(a)

The manager ensured that no other person than the approved list (i)-(iv) was allowed access to the service.

(b)

The manager ensured that a record in writing was kept of any such person entering the premises.

(4)

The manager ensured that the records referred to in (3)(b) were retained for a period of one year from the date to which they related.

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)

A staff member trained in FAR first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a)

A well-equipped first aid box was easily accessible and in a conspicuous position in each pre-school room.

(b)

The first aid box was always available to the children attending the 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the premises and the last fire drill took place in January 2024.

(b)

There was a maintenance record available for the firefighting equipment dated the 11th of July 2023 and the smoke detection system dated the October 2023.

(2)(c)

The records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were clearly displayed in the pre-school rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had employed a sufficient number of staff to ensure that the children attending the pre-school service were supervised continuously throughout the hours of operation.