

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW124			
Name of Service:	Tinahely Community Playgroup Ltd			
Address of Service:	School Road, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow			
Eircode:	Y14 DE43			
Name of Registered Provider:	Siofra Gallagher			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	25/06/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	20
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
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Description of service

This full day care service is located adjacent to the local National School in townlands of Tinahely Co. Wicklow and was first opened in 2010. It is a non-profit service that is registered to provide care and education for children aged between one years and six years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.30 hrs and 18.30 hrs (including a sessional Early Childhood and Education Scheme (ECCE) service for 38 weeks of the year). A school age service is also provided. The premises is a purpose built, two storey building with five pre-school rooms, all with sanitary accommodation, an office, staff room, laundry room, staff sanitary area, storage room and kitchen. There is a large outdoor area to the rear of the premises, which the children have access to on a daily basis

Staffing

There are fifteen full-time members of staff employed in the service, this includes the manager, clerical support and the full-time chef. The manager and fourteen adults were present on the day of inspection. The registered provider is the head of the board of management for the service and does not work directly with the children.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Noticed for Garda Vetting was issued to the service on the 27th June 2024 and the manager responded on the same day. The response was accepted.

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

(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.*
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*
- (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)

There was a manager in charge of the service and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

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

(c)

There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available for fifteen adults employed in the service.

(c)

The required three-year Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of fourteen adults.

(d)

Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

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

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(c)

The required Garda Vetting disclosure was not available for one adult employed in the service. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 27th of June and the manager responded to the notice on the same day and the response was accepted.

(3)

The required Garda Vetting referred to in paragraph (2) was not carried out prior to the adult being appointed to the pre-school service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(c)

The staff member was immediately removed from the service and did not return until vetting was in place. We will ensure Garda Vetting is in place for all staff members. This will ensure no staff member will have access to working here without all correct documentation in place.

(3)

We have since received vetting for this staff member and she was allowed back on the premises. No start date will be given to new staff members until vetting has been received back

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(c)

Photographic evidence of current Garda Vetting for one adult was received with the CAPA response.

(3)

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The documentation submitted for (2)(c) and the practice to be implemented for (3) will address the non-compliances found on the day of inspection in Regulation 9. These will be reviewed on next inspection.

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)

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were twelve adults employed and present with 39 children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

There were two adults on the premises at all times.

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 main door to the premises was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.
- All toys were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit route in each pre-school room was free from obstruction.
- A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in a conspicuous place in each pre-school room and around the pre-school.

Infection Control:

- Each care room had access to a separate sanitary area within the pre-school. There were adequate nappy changing facilities for the number of children attending the service in nappies.
- There was warm running water at 38.6°C, liquid soap and paper towels available in all sanitary and nappy changing areas.
- A foot pedal bin was available in all sanitary areas for the safe disposal of used paper towels. Foot pedal bins were also available in all pre-school rooms and the nappy changing areas.
- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time as was hand washing by adults and children before snacks and after using the toilet.
- A cleaning schedule was present and maintained in all pre-school rooms.

Safe Sleep:

The sleep needs of the children in the age group 1 to 2 years of age were child led but there was also a designated time for sleep after lunch. The children slept in one care room in the service. Cots and low level beds were moved into the care room following lunch. The service had an adequate number of cots to accommodate the age profile of the children who required cots for safe sleep and low-level beds to accommodate the children who no longer slept in cots.

All children were offered the opportunity to sleep during the day but were accommodated in their care room if they did not want to sleep. All shoes and heavy clothing were removed before children were put into their cots. Each care room had a cosy area for children to use who did not sleep during their day. Sleeping children's breathing, colour and position, were recorded and charted at 10-minute intervals.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- Low level beds were stacked on top of one another with the children's fitted sheets in place. This meant that the legs of the bed on top was resting on the sheet of the bed below., risking soiling the sheet the child would be sleeping on. This is not adequate for infection control purposes.
- On the day of inspection, the nappy changing procedure was not seen to be effective for infection control purposes. A staff member failed to remove their gloves until after a nappy change was completed. On further examination, the Nappy Changing Procedure of the was not robust enough to ensure good infection control practices and needs updating.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

- All staff were spoken to immediately following the inspection. It was explained the reason why we will not be carrying out this practice again. One staff member will get the beds ready 10 minutes before sleep time and place them directly on the floor where they are going. To make sure that all staff members are aware of this new practice, it will be discussed at the next staff meeting. It will also be explained to any new staff joining the team
- We have made changes to our nappy changing policy. This will also be discussed at the next staff meeting. All staff have also been issued with a copy of the new updated policy and they are also on display in all the nappy changing areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

A new nappy changing policy was submitted with the CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions when implemented will address the non-compliances found on the day of inspection in relation to regulation 23 Infection Control and will be reviewed on next inspection.