

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW170
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	The Little Red Hen
-------------------------	--------------------

Address of Service:	Branaigh, Clone, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow
----------------------------	---------------------------------------

Eircode:	Y14 HP90
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Julie Byrne
-------------------------------------	-------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	23/10/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	35	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).

Description of service

The Little Red Hen Playschool is a privately owned service which was established in August 2008. The playschool is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age. The service currently caters for 44 children in a single session and operates a staggered start time for the two classes. The

first room starts at 9.00am and finishes at 12.30pm and the second room starts at 9.15am and finishes at 12.45pm. Both rooms operated Monday to Friday and participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year. One of the playschool rooms is attached to the registered providers private home, in a purposely adapted room, the second is a purpose-built standalone building beside the registered providers' home. The service is located in the rural townland of Clone near Aughrim Co. Wicklow. There is a large outdoor area located at the front of the premises. There is a second enclosed outdoor area located in two large polythene tunnels on the property, which the present children attending the playschool have access to on a daily basis. This outdoor area is able to accommodate all children attending the service.

Staffing

There are six staff members employed in the service which includes the registered provider.

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/ 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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the registered provider and a review of the staff roster, it was confirmed that there were six adults employed in the playschool service and this included the registered provider, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The registered provider was present in the playschool and there was a named staff member who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider 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 playschool service that identified the lines of authority and accountability.

(2)(a)(b)

Written references were available in respect of six adults.

(c)

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

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no adult had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

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

(6A)

There were two adults employed pursuant to the Access and Inclusion Model.

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.

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

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the playschool.

(3)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained during the inspection. There were six adults employed and present with thirty-five children.

(8)(c)
Not applicable as the playschool is not operated single-handedly.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing of the above particulars, were kept in respect of each child attending the playschool service.

(3)(c)

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

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(g)(h)(i)(j) & (k)

The registered provider made sure that a record in writing was kept of the above information in relation to the service.

(3)
The registered provider ensured that the above list of information in paragraph (1) was open to inspection, within the service, to an authorised person.

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 service was securely locked on arrival of the inspector to 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 routes from the playschool rooms were free from obstruction and clearly marked.
- The area containing the polythene tunnels was secured to prevent children leaving the area unsupervised or allowing unauthorised access to the play area.

Infection Control:

- A sanitary area was located within each playschool room. There was warm running water at 35°C, liquid soap and paper towels available. Warm water, soap and paper towels were also available for the children in the outdoor area.
- Foot pedal bins were available in the sanitary areas for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed before snacks, after using the toilet and outdoor play.
- A cleaning schedule was present and maintained in each of the playschool rooms and the outdoor area.

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)

The registered provider was trained in FAR first aid and available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was located in an accessible place within the premises and a second box was available in the outdoor area.

(b)

The first aid box was available to the children attending the service at all times.

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 firefighting 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 evidence of regular fire drills haven taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on the 23rd of September 2024.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated September 2024 and November 2023 respectively.

(2)(c)

These records were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within each playschool room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that there was adequate insurance for the number of children attending the service.