

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW229			
Name of Service:	Enniskerry Pre-school			
Address of Service:	The Old Powerscourt N.S, Enniskerry Village, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow			
Eircode:	No Eircode			
Name of Registered Provider:	Georgina Young			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	16/11/2022			
No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive Loughlinstown, County Dublin.			
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon			
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

Enniskerry Pre-school first opened in 2012. The service is registered to operate a sessional service from 9am to 12pm and caters for a maximum of 22 children at one time. The service presently caters for pre-school children from two and a half years to five years of age. This pre-school is located in an adapted pre-fabricated building at the rear of the old national school in Enniskerry village, County Wicklow. There is an outdoor area at the side and rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

Staffing

There are four staff employed in the service daily. All staff hold an Early Childhood Care & Education qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications or the equivalent.

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.

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 members 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.

(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.

(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

On the day of inspection there were two new members of staff present since last inspection

- (2)
- (a) Four written past employer validated references were available in respect of the two adults.
 - (b) Not applicable as all references required were from past employers.
 - (c) Completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for two adults
 - (d) Not applicable, International Police vetting was not required as the employees had not lived in another State for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

All adults working in the service held the required Early Childhood Care and Education award at a minimum of Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6)(A) Two adults were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model and held a qualification in childcare.

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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained. There were four adults employed with nineteen pre-school children on the day of Inspection.

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;*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) The details of attendance of the children attending were recorded on a daily basis.
 - (i) The details of the staff roster were on display in the service.
 - (j) A method to record the administration of medication was available in the service. Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
 - (k) Records of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service were maintained by the service.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs

Basic Needs of Infants & Children

- A healthy nutritious snack was provided by the parents for the children.
- Specific care plans were available for two children who required them.
- Children used the toilet independently and assistance given if required.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- The adults present were observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards all of the children in their care. Children were observed to be very comfortable with the adults present. One child who needed time to play alone quietly was given space to do so and was welcomed back into the group when ready.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. A short verbal handover was given daily, and parents were informed that they could keep in touch using alternative means such as an electronic app, email, texting and phoning.
- Children were observed choosing their preferred activity and they played together and separately with the guidance and encouragement of the adults as needed.

Physical and Material Environment

- An ambient temperature of 18°C was maintained in the care room.
- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture, equipment and toys available. The

environment included several defined interest areas that were adequately resourced and contained the following: a kitchen, shop, home area, Montessori equipment, transport and construction area with supporting equipment. Art materials and puzzles were also available.

- There was evidence of the children’s artwork on display in the room.
- The large outdoor area was divided into three sections. An area with child sized tables and chairs was not in use on the day of inspection. The inspector was informed that equipment for use indoors could be taken out to work with outdoors e.g., table top activities and art / painting. A second activity area had a slide, three swings and tyres. The third area had a sand table, workbench, picnic table and mud kitchen.

Non-Compliance Information

1. Drinking water was not available to the children at all times. The children’s water was stored in the children’s bags in the hallway.
2. The temperature of the sanitary area was below the recommended temperature of 18°C- 22°C to ensure the comfort of the children. The temperature recorded was 13.4 °C which was too cold. An effective method to increase the temperature in this area was not immediately available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Drinking water – children’s drink bottles are now taken from their bags and put in the room at the water station, to drink when needed
2. The temperature in the sanitary area, the storage heater in the hallway had not been switched on. It was not effective till the next day as they operate at night storage.

Summary Comment

The actions and photographic evidence received by the Registered Provider have been considered by the Inspectorate. The non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 19 have been addressed.

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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service including:

General Safety:

- The external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.
- Toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection was safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before snack and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed and in accordance with the services infection control policies and procedures.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in the room and the environment was clean.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should temperature reducing medication be required to be administered to a child.
- All medication was stored in a safe place and was clearly labelled.

Fire Safety:

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

- Documentary evidence was available that fire drills were being carried out on a monthly basis as per best practice guidelines.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In a press area staff members handbags were stored and were accessible to a child posing a risk of injury to a child.
2. Electrical wires which were connected a TV and a DVD were not secured posing a risk as they could be pulled from the shelf.
3. The lock was broken on a press where cleaning agents were stored posing a safety risk.

Fire Safety:

4. The servicing of the smoke alarm was not carried out annually as required. The most recent date for the servicing of the smoke alarm was 20th of June 2022. This could pose a risk to the safety of the children and staff in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A child proof lock now in place on the press where staff members personal belongings are stored.
2. The electrical wires are now cable tied and are out of reach of children.
3. A new child proof lock has been fitted to the press where cleaning agents are stored.

Fire Safety:

4. The smoke alarms were serviced on 15/12/2022.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the Registered Provider and the evidence submitted have been considered by the Inspectorate. The non-compliances identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23 have been addressed.

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) An adult who had completed Pre-hospital emergency care council (PHECC) training was immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position within the room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school 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.

(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)

A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 8th of November 2022.

(b)

Records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms dated 10th of October 2022 and 20th of June 2020 respectively.

(4)

Notices were displayed in conspicuous positions, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27th of March 2023. The insurance provides cover for up to 22 children.