

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WX025

Name of Service: Carraig Briste

Address of Service: Templescoby, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Eircode: Y21 Y6N6

Name of Registered Provider: Orlagh Doyle

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 19/06/2023

No of pre-school children: AM 69 PM 38

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Tusla Child and Family Agency
Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford

Inspection undertaken by: C. Ryan

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

Carraig Briste is a privately operated early years located in a rural community outside Enniscorthy, Co Wexford. It offers full day care, part time and a sessional service to children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from 7.45am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from two modern houses which contain six playrooms, and a log cabin which operates as the school in the forest. There are designated sleep rooms and sleep areas, two kitchens, dining areas, toilets, and an office. There are various large outdoor gardens and natural play areas are available on the premises which the children have direct access to.

Staffing

The registered provider and the childcare manager are the designated people in charge daily and are rostered supernumerary to the staff working directly with the children. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5, 6, 7 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(b), 10, 11(1)(2), 20(1)(a)(b)(3)(a)(b), 21, 22, 23, 25(1)(2)(a)(b), 26(1)(a)(b)(4) and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9(1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(b), 10, 11(1)(2), 20(1)(a)(b)(3)(a)(b), 21, 22, 23, 25(1)(2)(a)(b), 26(1)(a)(b)(4) and 28.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included time in the school in the forest, wobbler room, the top school and outdoor areas.

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, 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*

(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

(1)(a)(b)

The childcare manager was the designated person in charge on the day and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider was also present on the premises during the day. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required. The files for the 15 staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two written and validated references available on file for staff members.

- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for the staff members.
- (d)
Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff members who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
Certificates of qualifications for the staff members working directly with the early years children were available on file.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The policies, procedures and statements as specified in Schedule 5 of the CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) REGULATIONS were available for inspection. For the purpose of this inspection the following policies were reviewed, and found adequate and specific to the service:

- Policy on staff supervision
- Statement of function
- Policy on infection control
- Policy on supervision of children indoors and outdoors
- Policy on accidents and incidents.
- Policy on healthy eating
- Policy on complaints
- Policy on behaviour management
- Policy on risk assessments
- Policy on handwashing
- Policy on environments

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)
During the morning there were 69 early years children being directly cared for by 13 staff. During the afternoon there were 38 early years children being directly cared for by 10 staff, ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times. The registered provider and childcare manager were available to provide additional cover for staff lunch breaks during the day.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

(b) Where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The children had access to seven main rooms which were suitable to the ages and stages of development of the children using them. In the bottom school, there was the baby room, the toddler room and the spruce room. In the top school, there was a wobbler room called the loft, the oak room and beech room. Outside to the back of the grounds was the school in the forest which consisted of a log cabin and various sheltered areas. The indoor spaces were supplied with furniture, toys, equipment and materials suitable to the ages of the children, their interests and abilities. Furniture, toys and materials were varied and included household items, recycled, nature objects and open-ended items. Interest areas were well developed and resourced to allow for imaginative child led play. The staff ensured that interests were set up to allow children to choose what experiences they wished to engage in.

(b)

The service had two dedicated sleep rooms, one located in the bottom school for use by the babies and toddlers. The second sleep room was located in the top school for use by the wobblers from the loft room. Older children had access to rest areas within the service. Children in the beech and oak room were provided with blankets and cushions in the playrooms for rest and sleep after lunch. Children from the spruce room were observed to settle to sleep in a designated, sheltered area in the outdoor play area, where staff could monitor sleeping children. The sleep rooms were equipped with standard cots with fitted mattresses, dimmed lighting, soft music and electronic temperature monitor. Clean bed linen was available for each child, with weekly laundry done within the service.

(3)(a)(b)

The children had access to a variety of outdoor play areas that were suitable to the different ages of the children using them. Each of the different age groups/ rooms had their own designated outdoor areas. The baby room had an enclosed garden, with grass. There were swings, ride on and push toys, ball pit, water trays and sheltered areas. Each of the areas were spacious and varied.

The children from the top school had access to large natural environments. The environment included climbing frames, planting and digging areas, a sand house, a construction area, mud kitchens, seating area, open ended and recycled materials. The outdoor garden belonging to the bottom school had sheltered areas that facilitated children who wished to rest or sleep. Covered areas provided spaces for children to carry out artwork, tabletop activities and eat outside.

The school in the forest was a large open space, partly forested. There were covered and sheltered spaces, including a cabin. The children had a gratitude tree where they began their day and simple rules and boundaries were set. All of the outdoor spaces had toilets, including a nappy changing unit for younger children.

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

The early years rooms throughout the service were equipped with both child sized and adult furniture to support activities such as chairs for staff to feed babies, tabletop activities, dining and story time. Cosy/ rest areas were available in all the rooms for the children to rest and relax away for the other activities.

In the baby room, toddler and wobbler rooms there was carpet to provide a warm home like environment. All of the toys and materials were stored on low tables, on open shelves or in small baskets, where they were easy to access by the children. The type and layout of the toys, equipment and materials encouraged and supported the child led play, learning and development. Staff said that they changed and developed the spaces according to the current and emerging interests of the children.

Staff regularly reviewed the equipment and materials, removing any items that needed repair, were to be discarded or needed to be deep cleaned.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service provided children with the main hot meal, and this was prepared in line with the service’s healthy eating policy. The weekly menu was available for parents to view. The parents supplied the mid-morning and afternoon snacks, which were kept in fridges in the rooms or outside areas. The service had a supply of extra food and snacks for children if they were hungry or forgot their snacks from home.

On the day of inspection, the dinner was meat balls in tomato sauce with rice. Extra portions were available if the children were still hungry. The children ate their food in a variety of settings around the service, including the dining room and outside. Dining areas with tables and chairs were set up in the outdoor area and in the kitchens. Children in the school in the forest chose to have their morning snack on a picnic mat under the trees.

Serving bowls, plates and cutlery were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. The children were offered water to drink with their meal. Chopped fresh lemons and orange slices were available to add to water for flavour. Formula bottles were prepared and stored in the fridges in the early years rooms in line with FSAI Food guidelines for early learning and care services.

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:

Access to both the houses was appropriately secured with an electronic keypad system at the entrance ensuring restricted access to unauthorised persons. The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed. Staff carried out daily risk assessments of the outdoor spaces in line with their risk assessment and environment policy. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after outdoor play and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service, including in the outdoor area. Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with the services policy. Staff were observed to wear aprons and gloves for each individual nappy change, wash their hands and wipe down the mat between each nappy change.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff discussed with the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. Medications were supplied by parents and stored securely in a designated area inaccessible to children. Individualised care plans were in place for children who required them.

Safe Sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy. Staff who spoke to the inspector demonstrated that they understood the importance of adhering to safe sleep guidelines. There was documentary evidence in the service that the sleeping babies colour, position and breathing were observed to be physically checked and recorded every 10 minutes as per safe sleep guidelines.

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)
There were staff trained in first aid available to the children attending the early years service.
- (2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises and available for use.

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.

(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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 26 May 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in August 2022.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service demonstrated that insurance cover to operate a full day care service for children was in place.