

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX031		
Name of Service:	Clonroche Playschool		
Address of Service:	c/o St. Aidan's National School, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y21 PY59		
Name of Registered Provider:	John Joyce		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	09/11/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	No.	PM
			No.
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry		
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 sessional service is situated in the village of Clonroche, Co Wexford. The service is operated from rooms attached to St. Aidan's National School. A sessional service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age from Monday to Friday between 9.20am and 12.20pm. The service consists of a large preschool room, toilets, a hallway and an outdoor area. The premise has been modified and resourced with play equipment and materials for the use of the preschool service. The service also has use of a safe, suitable and secure outdoor area accessed directly from the service. The service has access to a larger outdoor area and indoor hall when not in use by the school aged children attending the national school. The service is also registered to provide a school age service.

Staffing

The service employed a total of three staff including the manager. Certificates of qualification were available for all staff members working directly with the preschool children. All staff held at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 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 manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service, including the manager. All three staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)

There were four written and validated references available on file from past employers.

- (b)
There were two written and validated references available on file from reputable sources.
- (c)
There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all six staff members.
- (d)
Police vetting was not required as no staff member had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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)
There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the preschool children.
- (3)
At 11.00am there were 9 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

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)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including playing together in the outdoor areas, doing tabletop activities, and having stories read to them in the early years room before they were collected by their parents.

The service had the use of two secure outdoor play areas. Children were observed enjoying free play in the outdoor area adjacent to the service on the morning of the inspection. Staff facilitated children to enjoy free play in the area. For example, children were observed playing with blocks of wood. Children were observed building piles with the blocks and also lifting the blocks in and out of a small plastic house. Children were well supported and supervised.

Staff were observed constantly engaged with the children encouraging them to take turns using the ride on toys and to share with their friends. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children had the use of the large indoor hall and the play area attached to the national school when not in use by the school age children.

The early years room was well resourced with play equipment. The areas of interest such as, the construction area, the home corner, the shop area were resourced with good quality toys and equipment. The materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low level shelves. There was a large comfortable armchair for the children and a selection of books for the children to look at in the rest area.

Staff demonstrated warmth and kindness in their interactions with the children. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in relation to the individual likes and dislike of the children. For example, one child wanted to

come inside while the other children were playing outside as there was a particular toy the child wanted to play with. There was adequate staffing and supervision in place for the child to be facilitated in their choice of activity.

Staff sat with the children during snack time and encouraged children to share their news with their friends. There was a relaxed and calm atmosphere observed in the service. For example, staff spoke to children using a gentle tone of voice and supportive language. Minor disagreements between children in the outdoor area were managed promptly by the staff who were constantly engaged with the children.

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

The manager had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

General safety:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secured on arrival. Hazardous cleaning products were stored out of reach on shelves, inaccessible to the children.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean on the day of inspection. There was a fridge available to store the perishable food provided by the parents for the children. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which was available to the children attending the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no person trained in first aid for children, immediately available to the children attending the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager has completed a first aid for children course. The registered provider will ensure there is a person trained in first aid for children available to children always attending the service going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation stating the manager is qualified in first aid for children was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered providers response and evidence submitted meets the requirements of the childcare act 1991(Early Years Services) regulations 2016.

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)

There was a template in place in the service to record any fire drill that takes place in the service. The last fire drill taken place in the service was recorded in November 2023.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2023. The smoke alarm was last serviced in November 2023.

(4)

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the children present on the day of inspection.