

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX043		
Name of Service:	Eleanor's Private Preschool		
Address of Service:	Leinster View, Ferns, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y21 CK15		
Name of Registered Provider:	Eleanor Hawkins		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	21/02/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector 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

Eleanor's Private Preschool service offers a play-based programme of care to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates Monday to Friday. The mission statement of the service "we focus on age-appropriate activities which enhance the child's holistic development." The service is located to the rear of the registered provider's home. It consists of two playrooms, an entrance lobby, and toilets. A large outdoor garden and play areas are available to the children to the rear of the premises which was fully enclosed.

Staffing

The service employs seven staff to work with the preschool children attending the service. The registered provider is the designated person in charge and works daily in the service. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and
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 registered provider, 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)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service.

The staff files for seven staff working directly with children were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff members file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for the staff who had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)
Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

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)(2)

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

During the morning sessional service there were 35 children being directly cared for by 6 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 following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection:

The service consisted of two rooms. Both rooms were well resourced to meet the needs of the children. The rooms were warm, bright and well laid out. Interest areas were well resourced and equipped. Both rooms had home corners, dress up clothes, dolls, buggies, art station, reading area, construction area, books, open shelves with boxes of bricks, small world and fine motor toys. There was a birthday wall, family photos and local community pictures displayed.

In both rooms children enjoyed free play on arrival to the service and were seen playing with play dough, bricks, in the home corner, colouring and with dolls. The staff gently gave the children prompts to tidy up time. After tidy up time children had information time, where they talked about their day, read a book which they discussed and what they were planned for the rest of the week. The staff and children chatted throughout the morning, with staff showing interest and responding kindly to the children.

Children who were toilet trained were observed to use the toilet independently with staff supervising children who needed help, ensuring that children washed their hands. Nappy changing and toileting was carried out as needed in the service.

Children from both rooms enjoyed time in the outdoor area. The outdoor area provided a variety of toys and equipment for the children to freely play and enjoy. There was a sandpit, water play, ride on toys, a slide, a playhouse, and a covered area. Parents were given time to talk with the staff at collection time about their children's day.

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 entrance to the premises was secured with an electronic keypad system. Visitors to the service were required to sign the visitors book on arrival and exit to the premises. The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed.

Infection Control:

The playrooms were clean and well maintained. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets. Regular handwashing took place during the morning.

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 FAR first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was 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 in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 20 February 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in October 2023.

(4)

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

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.