

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015WX056

Name of Service: Horeswood Community Childcare

Address of Service: Ballyfarnogue,
Campile,
New Ross,
Wexford.
Y34RT20.

Email Address: horeswoodcc@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Bonnie O Sullivan

Type of Service Registered: Full Day Care

Date(s) of Inspection: 1 1 0 5 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 39 PM 12

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

Inspection undertaken by: E. Mc Garry
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Horeswood Community Childcare is a community based early years service. It is managed by a voluntary committee. It operates a full day care, part-time and sessional early years service to children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service also caters for school age children. The service is open from 08.00hrs to 18.00hrs for 46 weeks per year.
Premises	The service is operated from a purpose-built premises for the exclusive use of the early years service. The service is situated in the grounds of the GAA complex. The service consists of two early years rooms, a kitchen, lobby, office, toilets and nappy changing facilities. The children have access to an outdoor play area, the GAA grounds and a large indoor football pitch in the service.
Staffing	There were six staff on the premises on the day of inspection. All six staff were working directly with the children. There were two students on the premises on the day of inspection who were also available to assist the staff in the early years rooms. All staff working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
Methodology	<p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that the inspector spends in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the early years rooms, the indoor arena and the outdoor play area.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that—
- the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
 - 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—
- consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
 - consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
 - 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
 - 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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (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."
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.
 - Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
 - these Regulations.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:	<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there was one new member of staff employed since the last inspection on 27 December 2020. All staff files were compliant on review at the last inspection and were not examined. The staff file of the new staff member was reviewed on the day of inspection.</p> <p>(a)(b) There were two written and validated references available on file from past employers for the new member of staff.</p> <p>(c) There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for the new member of staff.</p> <p>(d) Police vetting was not required as the new staff member had not worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.</p> <p>(4) The new staff member who was working directly with the early years children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.</p> <p>(6) (a) Not applicable as none of the staff working directly with children had signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 that stated he or she intended to retire from employment in an early years service before 1 September 2021.</p> <p>(b) Not applicable, as no staff member had applied for a qualification exemption.</p> <p>(6A) There were no staff members employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.</p>
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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:	There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the healthy eating policy and the policy on infection control in the service. These policies and
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

procedures were specific to the setting. The policy on infection control had been amended with reference to the ongoing management of COVID-19.

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*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information:

(1)
There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the early years children during the period of inspection.

Butterfly room

At 10.10hrs there were 20 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.
At 13.00hrs there were 8 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 4 staff.

Caterpillar room

At 10.15hrs there were 19 children aged 2 years 7 months to 4 years old in the care of 2 staff.
At 13.10hrs there were 11 children from 2 years 7 months to 4 years of age in the care of 2 staff.
At 14.00hrs there were 12 children aged 3 to 6 years old in the care of 2 staff.
The manager of the service and two students were also in the service on the day of inspection and were available to assist the staff in the early years rooms.

(8)
There were always at least two staff on the premises during the period of inspection.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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

Compliance Information:

Basic needs of the children:

The findings of the inspection were evidenced through direct observation, review of documentation and discussion with staff on the day of inspection.

- The service had a healthy eating policy. All meals and snacks were provided by the parents of the children attending the service.
- At 10.45hrs children in the butterfly room were observed getting their lunch after their morning play in the indoor football pitch. Children enjoyed lunches provided by their parents. There were sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, and yogurts provided.
- Staff were observed to encourage healthy eating. They played a game with the children "Who has grapes today?" "Who has apples today?" Children were praised for their healthy lunch box contents.
- Staff were observed to sit with the children during their snack time making it a pleasurable and social time for them. Children who took longer to eat their snack were given lots of time to finish their snack. Staff were heard saying "That's ok, take your time and finish your snack."
- Staff were observed to be attentive to the care needs of the children. Children were encouraged to be independent in their toileting needs. Children were observed to be given assistance when required.
- Tables were cleaned with detergent and paper towels.
- Drinking water was readily available throughout the day in all early years rooms.
- The children sat at appropriate level tables in child sized chairs.
- Rest areas were provided in each of the early years rooms.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Staff were observed to interact well with the children on the day of inspection. Staff were observed playing games with the children in the indoor football pitch. Staff developed an obstacle course for the children in the area. The children were observed running over tyres, jumping over skipping ropes, jumping through hula hoops, running around traffic cones, and finally throwing balls for a staff member to catch to finish the race.
- Staff who spoke to the children were knowledgeable about the children's particular care needs. For example, some of the children did not want to sleep at the services quiet time in the afternoon. The children were given an

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	<p>opportunity to sit with a staff member with a blanket in a cosy couch and have a story read to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The staff were observed to work well as a team. They communicated between each other directly, transitions were handled well. For example, the children from the caterpillar room were observed before they were brought for their walk around the pitch. They were given notice that they would be brought outside. They were given time to dress warmly and given help if required. • The children were accompanied by three staff members on their walk around the pitch. The children were observed by the inspector to enjoy this experience. The children held hands with their friends. Staff talked to the children all about nature and how to look out for signs that it was springtime. • Staff in the caterpillar room were observed to be kind and attentive to the children when they were helping them to relax and go for a sleep. The children's choices were facilitated. Some children were facilitated to lie down on their bed with a blanket, others chose to continue with tabletop activities.
<p>Non-Compliance Information:</p>	<p>BASIC NEEDS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The food provided to the children at dinner time on the day of inspection was not adequate to meet the nutritional needs of children attending a full day care service. Best practice for early years services is that children attending a full day care facility should be offered a main meal consisting of a range of food from the four different food groups. Several children had bowls of plain pasta with tomato ketchup, some children had plain waffles and some children had tins of spaghetti hoops heated in the microwave.
<p>Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</p>	<p><u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>The service has amended their healthy eating policy. The policy now includes information on the importance of the provision of food from all four food groups for the children's main meal of the day. The policy also requests parents to provide water as the main drink provided for the children attending the service. Parents were informed of the outcome of the inspection report. The specific noncompliance in relation to the food on offer on the day of inspection was discussed. The new policy was shared with the parents and information on specific websites given to inform their choices in relation to the food they provided for their children.</p> <p>A staff meeting was held to share the new policy. It was agreed that staff would encourage parents to get involved in the services promotion of healthy eating in the service.</p> <p><u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u></p> <p>Staff will continue to monitor and support the promotion of healthy eating in the service and encourage parents to provide healthy options for all the children attending the service.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u></p>

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

	The inspector received a copy of the services new policies which have been shared with parents. These policies clearly outline the services approach to promoting healthy eating in the service going forward.
Summary Comment	All evidence submitted meets the requirements of the childcare act 1991 (early years services) regulations 2016.

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:	<p>GENERAL SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The external door and internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. The front door was secured and access was gained by ringing the bell in the service. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children. <p>INFECTION CONTROL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service had an infection control policy. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of infection control measures that were in place in the service to prevent and reduce the risk of cross infection. For example, cleaning schedules were maintained daily. The service was clean and well maintained There was a nappy changing unit provided for the children attending the service. Hand sanitising stations were available throughout the service. All toilets had access to warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and bins. Tables were cleaned and disinfected prior to mealtimes. Children were observed washing their hands before eating, after toileting and after messy play. Staff were observed frequently sanitising their hands. <p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector and was found to be in line with best practice guidelines for the safe administration of medication in an early years setting. A previous record of medication that had been administered in the service was reviewed by the inspector. It was clearly documented, and the administration was verified and signed by two staff members and the parent of the child it was administered to.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

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.
- Children over two years of age were facilitated to sleep on canopy beds in the early years room. Staff were observed to stay with the children in the rooms and supervise them as they slept.

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 was a person 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 on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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 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 record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 28 April 2022.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in the service on 22 September 2022. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the premises was carried out on 12 May 2022 the day after the inspection took place.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

(4)

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