

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015WX086 | | |
| Name of Service: | Lollitots Community Child CLG | | |
| Address of Service: | Bearlough, Rosslare Strand, Rosslare, Co Wexford | | |
| Eircode: | Y35HE19 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Grainne Gorman | | |
| Service type: | Full Day Care | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 22/01/2025 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 50 | PM 29 |
| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford | | |
| Inspection undertaken by: | Colette Ryan Aileen Bradshaw | | |
| Title: | Early Years Inspectors | | |

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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

Lollitots Community Childcare preschool service is managed by a voluntary committee. It offers a full day care service to children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 08:00 to 18:00. The service is in a purpose-built facility in Rosslare strand and consists of five playrooms, one designated sleep room, and sanitary accommodation including wheelchair /disability accessible toilet, kitchen, and an office. Children have access to an outdoor play area at the side and rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service and was not present during inspection. There are 17 staff employed in the service, and this includes the manager/person in charge. The designated person in charge is onsite daily and another named person is available to deputise as required. 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.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 17 Information for parents,
Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,
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 and
Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements.

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 inspectors wish 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)

The manager was the designated person in charge and a named deputy was also available to deputise as required. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present on the day of inspection.

(b)

The person in charge confirmed that they or their deputy are always present while the service is open.

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of 17 staff employed to work in the service. This documentation met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Two validated references were available on file for 16 of the staff members.

(c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available on file for all staff members. The service demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years in all cases. See regulation 23 for further details.

(d)
A police vetting disclosure was available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)
Certificates of qualification for all staff members who work directly with children were available on file demonstrating that they held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Qualification Framework or qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)
Two validated references were not available for one staff member.

(d)
A police vetting disclosure was not available for one staff member who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

References are now on file.
The service is in the process of applying for police vetting.
The service is updating and reviewing the staff folder and with a clear checklist of needs upon starting employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

References, evidence of the starting the police vetting process.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response to address the non-compliances.

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.

In the morning:

- **Pre School room 1:** There were 19 children in the care of 3 staff (all aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Toddler Room:** There were 10 children in the care of 3 staff (all aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Baby room:** There were 6 children in the care of 2 staff (all aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Pre School room 2:** There were 15 children in the care of 3 staff (All aged between 4 and 5 years).

In the afternoon:

- **Pre School room 1:** There were 11 children in the care of 2 staff (all aged between 3 and 4 years).
- **Toddler Room:** There were 6 children in the care of 2 staff (all aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Baby room:** There were 4 children in the care of 2 staff (all aged between 1 and 2 years).
- **Pre School room 2:** There were 8 children in the care of 1 staff (All aged between 4 and 5 years).

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The service had a parent handbook with provided parents with an overview of the services offered and the curriculum available.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There were 4 care rooms available to the children, the Baby Room, the Toddler Room, Pre-school 1 room and the Pre-school 2 room. The 3 rooms on the ground floor catered for 1 to 2 years old, 2 to 3 years old and 3 to 4 years old respectively. The room on the first floor catered for 4 to 5 years old. All rooms were carefully designed with designated areas of interest created with the use of furniture and floor coverings. The quiet area had soft furnishings for the children's comfort.

The play equipment was of high quality and suitable for the age and stage of the children using it. The wide variety of materials supported different types of play offering various levels of challenges to children. Children were observed to access toys and games from low shelving and had space to move around the rooms unrestricted.

(b)

There was a sleep room which was shared by children from the baby and toddler rooms. This was furnished with eight cots and three low beds. This room was darkened with white noise playing from a speaker while the children slept. There were coloured lights projected onto the ceiling which created a relaxing atmosphere in the room. The rooms for the older children had a cosy area with low couches and cushions if a child required a rest. Children in Preschool 1 room had a 'relaxation time' after dinner, where additional soft furnishings were laid out on the floor mats and soft music played with coloured lights projected onto the ceiling.

(3)(a)

There were two designated outdoor play spaces for the older and younger children with an additional covered area at the side of the building to allow children to play outdoors during inclement weather. Three of the care rooms had direct access to the outdoor areas. These areas were securely fenced with a small wooden fence dividing the spaces. A variety of play surfaces included a soft surface material, grass and artificial grass were in place. There were two large, covered sandboxes and a mud kitchen. There was a large tunnel and slide for the children to crawl and climb. The outdoor toys were stored in the shed, these included wheeled toys, ball games and accessories for the sand pits and mud kitchen.

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

Rooms in the building were bright with natural light from the large windows. Each room was equipped with low shelving and containers accessible by the children. Tables and chairs were height adjustable to ensure the comfort of the children accessing them. Designated areas in the rooms were well-resourced and easily accessed by the children.

Staff described how the areas of interest changed with the children's current interests. For example, in Preschool 2 there was a large display area with dinosaur toys, artificial grass, books and pictures to support the dinosaur theme chosen by the children. Preschool 1 had a pretend café set up with accessories to enhance the children's play experiences.

The Toddler room had a large art display of painted ships which the staff member explained was a result of the previous week's theme of water. The baby room for the youngest children had clear floor space to allow children

to move freely with push-along toys to support their gross motor skills and large floor mats to facilitate the children when they sat on the floor to play with the large puzzles and construction toys.

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:

- Entrance doors were secured on the inspectors' arrival to the service. There was an intercom system to allow access. Staff at reception could see any person approaching the main door of the service. This assisted in preventing unauthorised access to the building.
- Attendance records were maintained and updated during the inspection for both children and staff. Staff demonstrated how they use a tablet and a childcare application to record children's details throughout the day.
- The outdoor area was secure and the play area was fenced.
- Accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.
- The kitchen and storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were restricted to children.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands before eating their dinner, after outdoor play and after toileting. Staff were overheard reminding children of their handwashing requirements if they had forgotten.
- There was liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels available for handwashing.
- Up-to-date and completed cleaning records were on display in each room.
- Children's soothers were stored in containers in their individually named baskets.
- Each cot had a washable cover on the mattress.

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of anti-febrile medication and prescribed medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency.

- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspectors.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes and recorded.
- The temperature in the sleep room was recorded as 18.1°C at 12:25 while seven children were sleeping.
- Cellular blankets were available for children sleeping in cots.
- Children who shared their cot had individual linen for their mattresses when going for a nap.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. Garda vetting was available for all staff members. However, 4 staff members vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous 3 years in line with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Garda vetting now on file.

The service is updating and reviewing the staff folder annually, so these vetting disclosures are always in date.

Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting.

Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response to address the non-compliance.

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)

Four staff members hold the appropriate First Aid Responder (FAR) certification, ensuring that a person trained in first aid is immediately available to the children at all times.

(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)

Records were available demonstrating that fire drills take place monthly; the last was documented as having been carried out on 17 December 2024.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the fire detection system and smoke alarms were last serviced in November 2024.

Firefighting equipment records were available demonstrating that these were last serviced in November 2024.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout 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 had insurance cover for 94 full day care children. It was dated from the 28 March 2024 to 27 March 2025.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Compliance Information

The four playrooms were measured as part of this inspection and each had sufficient space to meet the needs of the ages and numbers of children attending as specified in Schedule 7:

(1)(2)

The preschool room 1 measured 41.4 m² and had sufficient space for the children attending.

The baby room measured 41.1 m² and had space for the children attending.

The toddler room measured 50 m² and had sufficient space for the children attending.

The preschool room 2 measured 41.1 m² and had sufficient space for the children attending.