

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX096		
Name of Service:	Patricia's Pre-school		
Address of Service:	Kilcavan, Tara Hill, Gorey, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y25 D2F1		
Name of Registered Provider:	Patricia Byrne		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	19/10/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate 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

Patricia's Pre-school is a privately operated early years service which opened in 1993. It is located in a rural village of Tara Hill in north Co Wexford. It offers a play-based programme to children 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates a sessional service from 9.00am to 12.15pm Monday to Friday. The service is located in a premises to the rear of the registered provider's home. It consists of an entrance hall, storage facilities, a large L shaped playroom and toilets. A garden and outdoor play area was available to the rear of the property which was secured by a fence and gate.

Staffing

There are a total of three staff working in the service. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection and works directly with the children. 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 the following regulations. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of the child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b) 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)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the premises and there was a deputy named person available as required.

(2) The staff files for three staff members were reviewed on inspection.

(a)(b)

Validated references for all staff were kept in each individual's file.

(c)

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

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the staff had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)
Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the early years 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.

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

(3)
During the morning there were seven children being directly cared for by two staff, ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times.

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 focusing on the children's learning, development and well-being on the day of inspection:

The service consisted of one L shaped playroom, which was bright, spacious and well-resourced with materials, interest areas, toys and equipment. On the day of inspection, the staff and children were observed enjoying small group activities throughout the morning. The staff interactions reflected a culture of respect and kindness. For example, staff asked the children questions during the session. "How are you doing?", "Would you like to do...?" and "Are you ready for...?". There was plenty of laughter and fun during the morning. Children enjoyed imaginative play in the outdoor garden and spent time with buckets of water and suds washing their ride on toys "in the carwash".

The transitions between activities were smooth as the children were familiar with the morning routine. The children were encouraged and supported with developing new skills, with staff helping children learn how to put on their coats and change footwear. Minor disputes over taking turns and sharing were solved using the timer, with the children seen to get the timer to use, when turn taking on the swings was required. The children that were toilet trained used the toilet independently, with staff encouraging handwashing.

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 service was secured when the inspector arrived at the premises. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed to the rear of the registered provider's home. A staff member carried out a risk assessment of the outdoor area daily before the children used the area. Attendance records were maintained daily. Parents and guardians signed in and out their children at drop off and collection times.

Infection Control:

There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels for hand hygiene available in the service. Handwashing was observed before eating, after toileting and after outdoor play on the day. The service was clean and well maintained. Openable windows provided natural ventilation.

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 for children 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 position and was available for use.

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.