

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015WX100 | | | |
| Name of Service: | A Place to Grow Raheen FRC | | | |
| Address of Service: | Raheen, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford | | | |
| Eircode: | Y21 N4V8 | | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Nicholas (Nick) Moore | | | |
| Service type: | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional | | | |
| Dates of Inspection: | 07/08/2025 | | | |
| | 08/08/2025 | | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 29 | PM | 14 |
| | AM | 29 | PM | N/A |
| 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 full day care service is located in the village of Raheen Co Wexford. A service is provided to children aged from 6 months to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 17:30 (including a sessional service from 09:30 to 12:30 hours 38 weeks of the year). A registered school age service is also provided. The premises is a purpose-built single storey premises with four early years rooms, a designated sleep room, toilets, kitchen and an office. There is an outdoor area situated to the rear of the service for the use of the children which is safe, suitable and secure.

Staffing

The service employed 22 staff including 3 cooks employed to provide meals and snacks for the children and a person employed who works solely in administration. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff who were working directly with the children held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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 d 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 15 Record of a preschool child
Regulation 17 Information for parents
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials
Regulation 22 Food
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 in service on both days of the inspection. There was a person available to deputise when the manager was absent. The roster demonstrated there was a person in charge on all days the service was in operation.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 22 staff employed in the service. Written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

- (c)
There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.
- (d)
Police vetting was available on file for two staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
There were qualifications on file for 17 staff working directly with the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

1.
One staff member had police vetting in place which was not translated.
2.
Two staff who were working directly with the children did not have evidence in place that they were qualified at level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.
A translated copy of the staff members police vetting is now available on file in the service. The service will ensure all police vetting will be translated prior to filing in the service.
2.
Documents confirming both staff members are qualified at level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education is now available on file in the service.
The service has updated their recruitment policy to included that all qualification certificates for staff will be available on file in the service before the staff member starts working in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

1.
A translated copy of the staff members police vetting was received by the inspector.
2.
Documents confirming both staff members are qualified at level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education was received by the inspector.

The updated recruitment policy was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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 policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on healthy eating and the policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service.

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)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on both days of the inspection.

Day 1

At 10:45

There were 29 children in the care of 7 staff.

At 14:15

There were 14 children in the care of 6 staff.

Day 2

At 10:00

There were 29 children in the care of 9 staff.

There was a cook employed to prepare all meals and snacks provided for the children in the service on both days. The manager was also available to assist in the rooms if required, and the person who was employed in administration was in the reception area on both days of the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency..*

Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

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 parents of children attending were sent the policies and procedures prior to their children attending the service. The inspector reviewed the information given to them. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information provided for parents contained an outline of the child protection policy, the hours of operation, curriculum development policy, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on funding schemes available for parents to avail of.

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

All preschool rooms were well equipped for the play and learning of the children attending. The rooms were resourced with thought and care for the interests of the children attending the service. In the baby room there was a large soft matt for children to play on. There was a supply of handheld rattlers and small world items for children to play with. The room was a large space with plenty of floor space for children to crawl and explore. The children in the baby room had access to a railed off area accessed through large double doors which opened directly to the outdoor area. This area had a chair for staff to sit on as they held the babies while looking at the older children playing in the outdoor area to the rear of the service.

The wobbler room was well resourced with art and craft materials. Toys, books and jigsaws were stored on easily accessible shelves in the room.

The pre preschool room had a selection of books for the children to read. There was a supply of play equipment such as bricks, jigsaws, and small cars stored on easily accessible shelves in the room. There was a home corner, a construction area and a large selection of toys and buggies for the children to play with.

The outdoor area to the rear of the service contained a variety of interesting sections for children to play. There was a climbing frame for the older children, ride on toys, balls and a small slide for the younger children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy which was shared with parents prior to their children attending the service. The policy included the schedule of meals required for children who were attending on a sessional, parttime and full-time basis. The service provided a hot meal for the children at a charge to parents at mid-day in the service. Parents provide the snacks in the baby room which were stored in the fridge in the small kitchenette beside the room. The children whose parents were availing of the hot meal service were given a freshly cooked dinner consisting of beef casserole and potatoes at mid-day on the first day of inspection. Children who were not availing of these dinners had their meals heated in microwaves in the rooms. Snacks provided by parents were observed to be varied and nutritious. For example, children in the playschool room were observed enjoying sandwiches, fruit, yogurts and diced vegetables at their snack time. Water was offered with food and was freely available to the children in all the preschool rooms. It was a particularly warm day on the first day of the inspection staff were observed to encourage the children to drink lots of water to keep them hydrated.

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 directly beside the office. The hallway of the service was open to parents and all early years rooms were accessed by using a key code known only to staff.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean on the day of inspection. There were cleaning templates in place to demonstrate that daily cleaning had taken place in the service. There was a fridge available in the service to store the premade

baby formula provided by the parents. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, and liquid soap.

Safe sleep

The service had a safe sleep policy. The sleeping children's colour, breathing and position were observed and recorded every 10 minutes on the mobile phone application in use in the service.

Accident and Incidents

The service had an accident and incident policy in place in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of their responsibilities in relation to the policy in place. Accident and incident reports reviewed by the inspector were signed by the parents as per the services policy.

Administration of medication

The service had an administration of medication policy. The policy was reviewed by the inspector. Previous records of medication that had been administered in the service were reviewed by the inspector. It was clearly documented; the consent was signed by the parent and the document of the administration procedure was verified and signed by two staff members.

Outings

There was a policy on the management of outings in the service. This included the elements of the required planning and resources necessary to ensure the safety of the children attending the service. For example, a risk assessment was carried out prior to the outing, a signed permission form was sought from parents and the required staff to children's ratios and the first aid training and equipment needed to facilitate the outing.

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 a first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service. All staff working directly with children were trained in a first aid responder course .

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years

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 took place in the service in July 2025.
- (b) There was a record in place to demonstrate the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment. This maintenance was carried out in July 2025. The smoke alarm in the service was last serviced in April 2025.
- (4)
- There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in 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 number of children the service was registered to accommodate.