

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015WX103 | | |
| Name of Service: | Scoil Spraoi na Leanai FDYS | | |
| Address of Service: | Pondsfield, New Ross, Co. Wexford | | |
| Eircode: | Y34P963 | | |
| Name of Registered Provider: | Kieran Donohoe | | |
| Service type: | Part Time, Sessional | | |
| Date of Inspection: | 30/11/2023 | | |
| No of pre-school children: | AM | 22 | PM 11 |
| 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

Scoil Spraoi na Leanaí is a community based preschool service. It offers a part-time service to children aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:00hrs to 13:00hrs daily. The service is located in a purpose-built facility. The service consists of a two preschool rooms, a sensory room, toilets, an office and a kitchen. The service has a large outdoor facility which is situated to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

There were 10 staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the preschool children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a)

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).

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, 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 of the service was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived later.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 10 staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on this inspection.

(a)(b)

There were 13 written and validated references available on file from past employers and 7 written and validated references available from reputable sources.

(c)

There was evidence of Garda vetting available for all members of staff.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

There was no police vetting available on file in the service for one staff member who had lived in state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months. It is acknowledged that the inspector received evidence that the staff member had applied for police vetting shortly after the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The inspector was sent evidence that a police vetting application for the staff member has been applied for. A copy of the police vetting will be placed on file in the service and forwarded to the inspector when received. The manager will ensure all required police vetting is available on file in the service prior to staff commencing in the service in the future.

Supporting evidence received.

A confirmation e mail from the country of origin stating vetting has been applied for by the staff member was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016. This matter will be reviewed on next inspection.

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)
There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)
At 11:00 hours
There were 22 children between 3 and 6 years of age in the care of 5 members of staff.
At 12:40 hours
There were 12 children in the care of 4 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 focusing on the areas of supporting relationships and physical environment on the day of inspection.

On arrival to the service the inspector observed the children were sitting having their snack. The staff were engaged with the children chatting about Christmas. Children were observed enjoying free play in the senior ECCE room. The room was well resourced and developed for the children to enjoy free play. Children were encouraged to play with each other, to share and have respect for each other. For example, minor disputes between children were managed in a child centered manner using gentle tones and encouraging children to be kind to each other.

The service had access to two separate outdoor areas. The first area was located directly outside the preschool room. This area was well equipped with a range of equipment suitable for the ages and stages of the children attending the service. There was a wooden house with a large camouflage tarpaulin covering it. There was a mud kitchen with a good resource of equipment such as pots, pans, and utensils. There was a large climbing frame which included a slide and a ladder for children to play on. There was a sensory garden in the service. This was located to the side of the premises. There was a pathway with different textured surfaces such as stones of different shapes. There was a small water feature, musical chimes, large metal balls and butterfly mobiles hanging from the trees.

The preschool room was well planned. Areas of interest were well resourced with good quality toys and equipment. There was an area dedicated to the display of cars, trucks, diggers, and helicopters. The service has recently incorporated an extra room in the building to accommodate an increase in preschool children attending the service. This room was located to the right of the front door. This room was observed to be well set up with toys and equipment for the fun and enjoyment of the children.

The service had also developed a sensory room in the service for children to relax in. This room contained a light installation of a tube with colourful lights and bubbles. There were comfortable mats and a ball pool for the enjoyment of the children.

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 took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

General Safety

The entrance was locked to prevent children leaving unaccompanied and unauthorised people gaining access to the service. All cleaning agents were stored in a safe and secure area which was inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

Cleaning templates were available in the service to document the regular cleaning of the preschool rooms and toilet areas. There was a fridge available in the service to store the food which was provided by the parents. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins. The temperature of the hot water flowing from the wash hand basin in the toilet area was recorded at 36°C on the day of inspection. All bins in the preschool rooms and toilet facilities were foot pedal operated.

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 preschool 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 preschool 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 in October 2023.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was documented in June 2023. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm was documented in November 2023.

(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.