

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX117
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Teach na Nog Preschool and Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------------------------

Address of Service:	31A Caislean an Dinigh, Carrig on Bannow, Wellingtonbridge, Wexford
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	Y35 N972
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Leanne Kehoe
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

Date of Inspection:	26/04/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>27</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	27	PM	N/A
AM	27	PM	N/A		

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, 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 part-time service is located in a housing estate in the village of Carrigh an Bannow in Co Wexford. A part-time service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service also provides two Early Years Care and Education sessions (ECCE) to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The morning session operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm, and the afternoon session operates from 12.15pm to 3.15pm. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 3.15pm. The premises is a detached building consisting of two early years rooms, toilets, a kitchenette, and a large outdoor area to the rear of the property.

Staffing

There were six staff, including the registered provider who was present on the day of inspection. All were working directly with the children. All staff 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11 Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who-
- (a) 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
- (b) 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:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the registered provider and review of documentation in the service it was established that the service had employed one new staff member since the last inspection on 13 April 2021. There was one staff file examined on the day of inspection.

1(a)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The manager was also in the service and was available to deputise.

2 (a) (b)

There was one written and validated reference available on file from a previous employer. There was one written and validated reference available on file from a reputable source.

(c)

There was a copy of Garda vetting on file for the new staff member.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as the new employee had not lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4)

The new staff member held a minimum of level 5 and above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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 were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the early years service.

(2)(3)
During the morning session there were 27 children in the care of 5 staff. The registered provider was also in the service and was available to assist in the early years rooms as required.

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of staff to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained at all times during the inspection.

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 registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection including eating together and playing together.

Interactions between children were well managed by staff who were caring for them. For example, children in the outdoor area understood they needed to take turns on the swings in the play area and were observed patiently waiting their turn.

There was a curriculum in place and observations had been carried out on individual children and evidence of their emerging interests and plans for learning were documented. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children played imaginatively in the outdoor area in the shed which was also a sand box. They were out of sight of the staff but were supervised. Any disputes were quickly resolved by the staff who were listening to the children's interactions.

During activities staff used opportunities to extend children's learning and development. For example, during circle time children sang a song using "Lamh Signs". Lamh is a system of hand signals used to communicate with children who have communication difficulties.

The early years rooms were well resourced with a range of toys and equipment for the children's learning and enjoyment. For example, in the Butterfly room there was a dolls house, a kitchen, dolls and buggies, and shelves containing a selection of jigsaws, books and plastic bricks. There was a display on the wall explaining the frogs life cycle from tad pole to frog. The theme of the week was bugs and insects.

The outdoor area was divided in to two separate areas. The area directly beside the rear door had a roof. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this was to ensure the children went outside to play even if it was raining. This area was well resourced with stimulating play equipment for the children's learning and fun. There was soft rubber flooring to minimise injuries to the children if they fell. There were logs for children to use as building blocks. There were raised tables for water play. There was also a kitchen for children to play in.

The second area was a grassed area directly beside the roofed area. There were swings which had a fence built around them for the safety of the children. There was an obstacle course made of tyres for the children to play in. There was a garden shed with a sand pit in the middle of it, which allowed the children shelter during colder days.

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 door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. The large outdoor area to the rear and side of the service was safe, suitable and secure. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. For example, cleaning schedules were maintained daily. There were no maintenance requirements observed on the day of inspection. There was warm thermostatically controlled warm water available in all wash hand basins in the service. There was liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal bins available throughout the service.

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 immediately 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 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

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 the service on 20 March 2023.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm was last serviced 9 September 2022 and firefighting equipment was last serviced on 5 May 2022.

(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 hallway of the service