

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX127
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Name of Service:	Tintern Community
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Address of Service:	Tintern Community & Sports Complex, Ballycullane, New Ross, Wexford
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Eircode:	Y34 X767
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Name of Registered Provider:	Willie Fitzharris
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	24/02/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early years Inspectorate Ely Hospital Ferrybank Wexford
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Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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
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Description of service

Tintern Community is an early years service situated in the village of Ballycullane, in county Wexford. It is managed by a board of management. The service provides a part-time service for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 9.00am to 1.30pm Monday to Friday for 48 weeks per year. The service is operated from a premises attached to the community center. Designated rooms within the community center are allocated to the early years' service. The service consists of two large playrooms, toilets, nappy changing facilities, a large indoor gym area on the first floor and an outdoor play area for the exclusive use of the early years children. The children also have access to the surrounding pitches attached to the GAA complex.

Staffing

There were six staff present, including the manager and one student on the day of inspection. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above in early childhood care and education 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 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 child
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of 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 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
- (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.

(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.

(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."

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

Following a review of documentation and a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that the service continued to employ the same staff since the last inspection on 9 December 2021. All staff files were compliant on the last inspection and were not examined on the day of inspection. There was one student in the service on the day of inspection and that file was examined.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two written and validated references available on file for the student from previous employers.

(c)

There was a Garda vetting certificate available on file for the student.

(4)

All staff who were working directly with the children held a qualification at level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(5)

Not applicable.

(6)

Not applicable.

(6)(a)

There was no member of staff employed under the access and inclusion model

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 at all times during the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
There were 29 children aged 3 to 6 years in the care of 6 staff. There was a student in the service on the day of inspection who was also available to assist the qualified staff who were working directly with the children.

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 manager 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 appropriate activities during the inspection. Children in the playgroup room were observed getting ready to go for a nature walk around the pitch. Staff were observed to be attentive. They made sure the children had containers to collect any interesting leaves they found on their walk. Some children were encouraged to share containers with their friends.
 - Staff were observed during circle time singing with the children. Staff demonstrated the action to songs and children copied them. For example, children were observed singing "ants on my arm are causing me alarm" and having fun showing the staff present how the ants might crawl up their arms.
 - There was a key worker system in place. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this system was to ensure the children's individual needs were met. For example, one child was settling in after a period of absence from the service. Staff who were dealing with the child were observed to be sensitive and caring. They got down to the child's eye level and spoke in low and comforting tones to soothe and calm the child.
 - There was a large colourful artwork displayed of a tree with all the children's handprints on it.

- There was evidence displayed on the wall of the playgroup room of the weekly planning of the curriculum for the children. For example, the theme of the week was springtime. Children who spoke to the inspector said they were excited to go on their nature walk.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor area. Staff were observed to be attentive to the children in their care. Older children were supervised while enjoying risky play. Staff were observed holding children’s hands while the children enjoyed jumping from play equipment in the outdoor area.
- Minor disputes were observed to be managed well by the staff present on the day of inspection. For example, staff were observed to listen attentively when children brought any dispute to their attention. One staff member was heard by the inspector to enquire from a child “tell me what happened “.
- Staff were heard to encourage the children in their work. After their snack children were observed taking out their own choice of tabletop activity. For example, some children took out connective bricks, some pegs and boards, some sand to roll and make shapes with the equipment supplied.
- The play equipment was observed by the inspector to be varied and of good quality. For example, the children were supplied with large mats. These allowed the children to create shapes from plastic bricks to create their own individual constructions.
- Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, by putting on their own coats before they went outside to play.
- During activities staff used opportunities to extend children’s learning and development. For example, children were observed making pancakes with the sand during tabletop activities. Staff chatted with the children about pancake Tuesday and the tradition of eating pancakes on that day.
- The materials and equipment available included arts and crafts materials and open-ended materials which were well organised and easily accessible to 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

General safety:

- The external doors were secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell.
- Each early years room was accessed by using a pass code only known to the staff in the service.
- All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.
- The playground to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure.

Infection control:

- The service had an infection control policy. For example, cleaning schedules were maintained daily.
- All early years rooms and toilets appeared to be clean and well maintained on the day of inspection.
- Hand washing was attended to regularly on the day of inspection. Children were observed being supervised to wash their hands before their snack and after using the toilet.
- All lunches given to the children on the day of inspection were stored in the fridges as recommended in the safe food and nutrition guidelines for preschool services (Health Service Executive).

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 for children immediately available to the children attending the early years service.
- (2)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box for children stored in an easily accessible place and was available to the children at all times.

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 recorded fire drill had taken place in the service on 22 January 2023.
- (b) There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment and the wired smoke alarm was last serviced on the 24 January 2023.
- (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.