

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX129
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Name of Service:	Tiny Tots Playschool
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Address of Service:	Cushinstown, Foulksmills, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y35 HW20
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann O'Neill
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	4
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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
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Description of service

Tiny Tots Playschool is a privately operated early years service which opened in 1998. It is in a rural setting near New Ross Co Wexford. The service is operated from a purpose-built premises on the grounds of the registered providers home and is registered to provide a sessional service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service provides two sessions, one in the morning from 9.00am to 12.00pm and one in the afternoon from 12.00pm to 3.00pm.

Staffing

The service employed a total of two staff including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff 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 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 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 provide, 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 day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were two staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. Both staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)

There were two written and validated references available on file from past employers for one staff member.

(b)

There were two written references available on file from reputable sources for the registered provider which did not need to be validated.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for both staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

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

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)

There was at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the early years children.

(3)

At 10.30am there were 22 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

At 1.00pm there were 4 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 2 staff.

The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained for the duration of 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 appropriate activities during the inspection including enjoying free play, doing tabletop activities, and enjoying circle time with their friends.

Children and staff were observed during circle time. There was lots of conversation about the children's plans for the weekend. Some children were going on an aeroplane. Staff used the experience to extend the children knowledge by asking them what they would bring to the airport.

Staff spoke to the children about getting used to the service as many of the children were just settling in. Staff held a quiz asking the children various questions, for example, "where do we put our coats when we come in?". Children were given praise when they answered correctly. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this exercise was to help the children become more comfortable in the service by becoming familiar with their surroundings.

The early years room was well resourced with play equipment. The early years room was well resourced with toys, equipment, and materials. The play equipment was stored on open child height shelves which helped the children work and access the toys independently. There were numerous areas of interest which had been developed for the children. There was a sand pit, a stage with puppets, a home corner with an ironing board, a large mirror for imaginative play, and a shop area with a till /register.

The children had lots of room to move about the large early years room. There was a cosy rest area for the children which consisted of couches, a soft floor mat and library books for the children to enjoy. The children were observed enjoying resting in this area when they were waiting for their parents to collect them.

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. Staff could see who was seeking to gain access to the service through the glass door. The outdoor play areas were safe, suitable and secure.

Infection control:

The service appeared clean on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were available throughout the service to document the regular cleaning of the early years room and toilet areas. There was a large fridge available in each of the early years rooms service to store the perishable food provided by the parents for the children. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

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

(2)(a)(b)

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

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
There was no person trained in first aid immediately available to the children attending the service. It is acknowledged by the inspector that the first aid certificates for both staff had expired in early September 2023.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has completed a PHECC FAR course in first aid. The registered provider will ensure there is a person always trained and available to the children attending the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

The inspector has received evidence documenting that the registered provider has successfully completed a PHECC FAR course.

Summary Comment

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

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 taken place in the service was recorded in June 2023.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in February 2023. The fire alarm in the service was last recorded in the service in February 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