

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX130		
Name of Service:	Explore and Discover Childcare		
Address of Service:	St. Mary's National School, Tagoat, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y35 CX61		
Name of Registered Provider:	Joanne Dee		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date(s) of Inspection:	28/06/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM 9
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan		
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

Explore and Discover Childcare is a privately operated early years service which offers full time care to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is located in a purpose-built facility in the village of Tagoat and consists of two playrooms, a small, designated sleep room, sanitary accommodation including a wheelchair/disability accessible toilet, a kitchen and an office. An outdoor area is available to the children attending the service and is fully secured.

Staffing

There were three staff working in the service on the day of inspection. There are four staff in total working in the service. The registered provider works directly in the service. The staff working directly with the early years children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at the minimum Level 5 and above 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(b), 11(1)(2), 19(1)(a), 23, 25, 26(1)(a)(b)(4) and 28. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the early years room and outside.

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

(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)
The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a second named person available to deputise as required.

The registered provider stated that there has been no change to the staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 05 May 2021. The files for four staff members reviewed on inspection were fully compliant.

(2)(a)(b)
There were two written and validated references available on file for four new staff members.

- (c)
Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for all of the new staff members.
- (d)
Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff members who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)
Certificates of qualifications for staff members working directly with the early years children were available on file.

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)
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2)
During the morning there were 12 preschool children being directly cared for by 3 staff. During the afternoon there were 9 preschool children being directly cared for by 3 staff, ensuring that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained.

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 reflect the children's experience within the service focusing on the area of supporting relationships on the day of inspection:

The staff and children were engaged in a variety of activities during the morning which included tabletop play, sensory/ tactile play, bricks and connectors, playing in the home corner and reading books. The staff put on the tidy up song to signal to the children when to begin getting ready for snack time. The staff and children worked together, chatting, tidying up and getting ready for snack time.

Children were supervised with handwashing and then took turns to help give out the lunches boxes from the fridge. The snack time was relaxed, with children able to eat at their own pace. The staff chatted with the children and helped them with opening lunches and talked about their morning. Children's drinks were situated on a low open shelf for children to freely access their drinks as they wanted.

After snack time, the children enjoyed story time, yoga and meditation before getting ready and going outside. The outdoor area consisted of a large sandy areas, planting and digging areas, tyres, water play, a covered areas for tabletop activities, and a kitchen. The children engaged in free and imaginative play including making an obstacle course and painting.

The service worked in partnership with parents. The parents received information regarding their children's individual daily progress at drop and collection times.

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

Infection Control:

Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, after outdoor play and after toileting. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with the services policy. Staff were observed to wear aprons and gloves for each individual nappy change, washing their hands and wipe down the mat between each nappy change. Children were helped with washing their hands after their nappy was changed.

Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. There was currently no child attending who requires administration of medication. There is a designated area inaccessible to children for the storage of medication.

Safe Sleep:

The service had small sleep room. There are no children under the age of two attending the service and currently no children over the age of two years who require a sleep during the day. Stackable beds and bed linen were available if required.

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 were staff trained in first aid 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 and conspicuous position in the premises and was available for use.

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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on the 26 June 2023.

(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in January and April 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in 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 an insurance certificate available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.