

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016GY003
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Name of Service:	First Steps
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Address of Service:	Creggs Road, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	F45 WK84
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marilyn Divilly
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	01/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	37	PM	27
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway.
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Inspection undertaken by:	F Kelly.
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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

This full day care service is located in the town of Glenamaddy, Co Galway setting. A preschool service is provided to children aged between 0 years to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8:00am to 18:00pm. A school age service is also provided.

Staffing

There were 10 adults employed in the service and 7 were working directly with the children on the day of inspection, this included the registered provider.

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 inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19. However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed risk was identified under Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the manager was on the premises and facilitated the inspection.
- It was confirmed that there were 10 members of staff employed in the service.
- All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a) There were 19 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.
- (b) There were 1 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 10 staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) There were 9 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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.*
- (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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school.*

Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

On the day of inspection there were 37 children being supervised by 7 adults.

Day 2 of inspection there were 27 children being supervised by 7 adults.

(2) At 10 .30 am on the first day of inspection, the following playrooms were in operation.

Toddlers Room, there were 4 adults working with 16 children.

Playschool, (2 to 3 years) there were 1 adult working with 10 children.

ECCE, there were 2 adults working with 11 children.

At 2pm on the day of inspection, the following playrooms was in operation.

Toddlers Room, there were 3 adults working with 13 children.

Playschool, (2 to 3 years) there was 2 adults working with 6 children.

ECCE, there were 2 adults working with 8 children.

(8)(a) Not applicable as two staff members were on the premises at all times.

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

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The layout of the playrooms allowed the adult staff to supervise the children as they moved into the different interest areas.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the pre-school children.
- The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate and offered a child manipulative activity designed to encourage hand eye co-ordination, develop fine motor skills .

BASIC NEEDS

- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner and the older children sat at age-appropriate low-level chairs and tables at their snack / mealtimes.
- Younger children were observed sleeping on demand throughout the day.
- Children attending the service who were toilet trained, either toileted independently or with some assistance by adults as required.

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:

- There was thermostatically controlled hot water in the hand washing sink in the downstairs staff toilet and upstairs children's sanitary areas for the effective washing of hands.
- The nappy changing mat in the downstairs nappy changing areas appeared clean .

- There was soap in the downstairs and upstairs staff toilets and the ECCE playroom for the effective washing of hands.
- There was a record of the cleaning and sanitising of each cot, a staff member was observed cleaning a cot between uses.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The window in the upstairs playroom (Junior Room) was broken. When the inspector opened the window, the hinges were broken, this posed a risk of injury to children.
2. The children did not have access to the large outdoor play area to the rear of the premises, the registered provider stated that the area was unsafe and works were to take place to make the area suitable for the children to play in . The other area used previously as an outdoor play area was restricted as construction work was taking place adjacent to this space. The registered provider stated in their response from their previous report that works to improve the outdoor space had taken place.

Infection Control:

3. The children's sanitary areas attached to the upstairs playroom was unclean, the sink was unclean and the toilet bowls were stained, this was highlighted on a report dated 20/04/2021.
The registered provider in the response to last inspection report stated that numerous daily checks would be carried out to ensure all rooms were clean.
4. Soft seating in the upstairs and downstairs playroom had exposed foam which was a risk of cross infection as it was difficult to effectively clean them.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The safety devices will remain on the upstairs windows.
2. There was work carried out in the outdoor play area and the children can use this area for play and exploration.

Infection Control:

3. The sinks are cleaned daily and are given a deep clean every weekend.
4. New soft seating was purchased for the two playrooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

On the 21/07/2023, The registered provider submitted photographic of the improvement made in the outdoor play area. The photographs also included a selection of ride on toys, scooters and bicycles that the children have access to.

A photograph of a safety restricted device attached to a rear window was also submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

A copy of an invoice for 2 child sized sofa that was purchased on the 14/07/2023, was also submitted for review.

Summary Comment

The inspector reviewed the corrective actions and evidence provided after the inspection. The regulatory requirement of this regulation has been achieved and will be reviewed at the next regulation.