

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016KE011				
Name of Service:	Sugradh Kilberry				
Address of Service:	Kilberry National School, Kilberry, Athy, Co. Kildare				
Eircode:	R14 EY05				
Name of Registered Provider:	Michael O'Sullivan				
Service type:	Sessional				
Date(s) of Inspection:	06/06/2023				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>9</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	<p>Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare. W91 X38W</p>
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher
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

N/A

Description of service

Sugradh Kilberry pre-school is located in a rural setting and operates from a modular unit to the rear of Kilberry Primary school situated between the towns of Monasterevin and Athy Co. Kildare. It is one of two private services in the locality operated by the registered provider.

Sessional care and education is provided to children from 2-6 years of age. Opening hours are from 9:15am-12:15pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. An enclosed play area is located to the front of the pre-school and the children also have access to the large, enclosed playing field and the school playground on site.

The service is registered to provide school aged care.

Staffing

Due to the lower numbers of children currently attending, the service was operating single-handedly. One person is employed and works directly with the children. The registered provider was not present and does not work in the service.

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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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 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.

(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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise was available to provide relief from a sister service in Kildangan village as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

The records of the person employed, designated deputy person in charge in the service and the registered provider were reviewed.

(2)(a)

Three written and verified past employer references were available in respect of three persons whose records were reviewed.

(b) Three written and verified references from a reputable source were available in respect of three persons employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two persons employed and the registered provider.

(d) Police vetting was not required; no person had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Two employed staff members held qualifications in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher 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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

- (1)
There were nine children attending the service being supervised directly by the person in charge.
- (3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection as specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6.
- (8)(c)
The service was being operated single-handedly. The emergency person was the school principal who was onsite during the inspection and available to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency occurring.

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-*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

The atmosphere was friendly, happy and child centred. Children were observed being supported by the staff member as they engaged in their self-directed play and activities. The staff member were observed responding to the children in a positive manner and provided praise and encouragement to each child throughout the morning. A healthy eating policy was in place and snacks provided by parents included fresh fruit, sandwiches with a variety of healthy fillings, cheese, yoghurt and fromage frais. The staff member sat and had snack with the children and made it an enjoyable and social experience. Fresh drinking water was freely available in the service.

Children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and were supervised and assisted as necessary. Hand washing routines had been well established and children were observed to wash hands prior to eating and after toilet use and messy play. The staff member ensured children had sun cream applied before they went outside to play.

The pre-school room was constructively planned and resourced to create interesting play and learning spaces to encourage children extend and develop their imaginative and explorative play and learning experiences.

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 main entrance door to the service was secure and controlled by the person in charge to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

Infection Control:

The pre-school room was observed maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and a cleaning schedule was completed daily and displayed for the room environment. Thermostatically controlled hot water, paper hand towel, liquid soap and foot pedal operated bins were available for hygienic hand washing and drying and for the hygienic disposal of used paper towel.

Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child.

Fire Safety:

Fire drills had been carried out and fire exits were not obstructed.

Outing:

An outings policy was in place in the service to guide practice when on an outing.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in the pre-school room.

(2)

Not applicable, this was not a drop in service.

(3) (a),(b)

The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

(4)

The person in charge confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period of time.

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)
The person in charge was trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and was immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)
The first aid equipment was safely stored in a conspicuous position in the service.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the children attending the 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 fire fighting 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)
A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service.

(b) A record in writing was maintained for the firefighting equipment in the pre-school and dated August 2022.

(4)
A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)
There was not an up to date maintenance record available for the smoke/fire alarm detection system.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A copy of the up to date fire certificate was obtained from Kilberry National School and is now on display in the preschool. Kilberry National School have agreed to provide a fire certificate to the Preschool Manager after all fire inspections for display on the preschool premises.

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire detection maintenance document dated 8 May 2023.

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 26 has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed to be supervised at all times both indoors and outdoors by the person in charge during the inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2024. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.