

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2016WH005

Name of Service: Glasson Pre-school

Address of Service: Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Email Address: glassonpreschool@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Lorraine Nolan
Lorraine Irwin

Type of Service Registered: Part-Time

Date of Inspection: 1 5 0 3 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 33 PM 8

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate,
Tusla, Child and Family Agency,
Primary Care Unit,
St. Lomans Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

Inspection undertaken by: C. O' Connor Hughes
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	This Early Years' Service provides a part time service operated by private providers. The age range of children enrolled in the service is 2 to 6 years of age. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. A school age childcare facility is available. The service operates three sessions with staggered drop off and collection times from between the hours 09:00 and 12:30 Monday to Friday during the pandemic.
Premises	The service is located in an adapted domestic dwelling in Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath consisting of two pre-school rooms and a kitchen. A third pre-school room is located to the rear of the premises. An outdoor play area is available for children. A one-way traffic system is in place for the drop off and collection of children.
Staffing	There were six adults present on the 15 March 2022 working directly with the children including the registered providers.
Methodology	<p>Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered providers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (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)
The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b)
The registered providers were present during the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

The registered providers stated no new staff members had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection on the 7 September 2020.

(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4)

Not applicable as no new staff members had commenced in the service since the last inspection on the 7 September 2020.

(6)(a)(b)

Not applicable, no adult present had signed a declaration on or before the 30th of June 2016 to the effect that they intended to retire from employment in a pre-school service.

(6A)

One of the registered providers was working directly with one child 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
- (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 service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times

Compliance Information:

- (1)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the inspection.
- (2)
There were thirty-three children attending the service being supervised by six adults in three play pods.

Play Pods Structure

Play pods	Number of staff	Number of Children
Room 1	2 staff members	12 children aged 3-4 years 10 Sessional 2 PT
Room 2	1 staff member + registered provider	15 children aged 4-5 years 10 Sessional 5 Part time
Room 3	1 staff member + registered provider	6 children aged 3-5 years 5 Sessional 1 Part time

- (8)(a)
The roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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

Compliance Information:

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS:

A healthy eating policy was in place in the service. Parents provide the snacks for their children. Snack consisted of sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and crackers with water to drink. A tablecloth was noted on the table. Children availed of a rolling lunch and initiated when they wanted to have their lunch. Good interaction was noted as children took their time eating and talked together. Children were observed to be independent and made choices as to what activity they wished participate in. Children were observed to have great fun at various free play activities in the pre-school rooms and in the outdoor play area supported by staff members.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service. A key person system was in place in the pre-school rooms. Staff present spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. Staff offered choices to children, using the child's name, making eye contact and speaking in a positive tone to the children. An individual access and inclusion care plan was available and children received extra support and supervision as needed. Staff were familiar with the children and their personalities. Good teamwork amongst staff was noted during the inspection.

The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. A parent notice board was located at the entrance to the service. A monthly newsletter with information updates is emailed to parents. The registered provider stated a verbal handover is given on collection and one to one meetings are organised with parents as required.

The children's folder noting the children's developmental progress and play activities are given to parents at the end of the pre-school term.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

A range of developmentally appropriate, creative, enriching and challenging experiences for children were noted in the indoor and outdoor environments. Areas of interest included a home area, a shop, a rest area with books, arts and crafts and a construction area in the pre-school rooms. Materials for creative,

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

manipulative and imaginative play were accessible to children on low level shelving. The extensive children's artwork displayed included the Saint Patrick's Day theme. A large outdoor play area consisting of grass and tarmac surface was available to children. Play opportunities included wooden huts depicting a Garda station, a doctor's house and a shop. A climbing frame with slide, a mud play kitchen, basketball hoop, sand play and rockers were available. Two sheltered units were available for play and for the storage of trikes, bikes and tractors.

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 entry to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hand sanitiser.

INFECTION CONTROL:

The indoor environment was visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable and cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. A cleaner is employed in the service.

Adequate supplies of warm water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation and in the pre-school rooms. The temperature of the water was recorded at 28°C at the wash hand basins. Hand sanitiser was available in wall mounted units at the entrance to the pre-school rooms and in the outdoor play area.

Snacks were stored in the fridge maintained at the correct temperature of less than 5°C.

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after toileting.

The pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated with openable windows.

Foot operated pedal bins were noted in the pre-school rooms and sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Attendance records for children and staff were maintained for contact tracing if

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

required by the public health department.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

No medicine was administered at the time of the inspection. An anti-febrile medication was available for children if they presented with a high temperature.

SAFE SLEEP:

A rest area was available for children to rest and relax as required in the three play pods.

FIRE SAFETY:

Emergency exits were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point was located in the outdoor play area.

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)

Three adults qualified in First Aid Response (FAR) were available on the premises.

(2)(a)

First aid boxes were available in an accessible and conspicuous location in the pre-school rooms.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to children in the pre-school 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 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:	<p>(1)(a) A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 7 February 2022.</p> <p>(b) A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on the 18 January 2022.</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.</p>
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