

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2016WX003

Name of Service: Killegney Early Years

Address of Service: Green Lane, Coolaught, Clonroche, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

Eircode: Y21 W278

Name of Registered Provider: Orlagh Doyle

Service type: Full Day, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 29/02/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	70	PM	50

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan	N. Ruddy	
Title:	Early Years Inspector	Inspection Registration Manager	

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

Killegney Early Years service is a privately operated preschool service. It is located in a rural community outside Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. The service offers full day care and a sessional service to children aged between 6 months and 6 years of age. The service operates from 7.45am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service's mission "is to create a childcare service where children are professionally cared for in a relaxing, yet stimulating and enriching environment". Killegney Early Years operates from two renovated buildings and consists of four playrooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, staff facilities and a huge emphasis on the outdoor environment with shelters and outdoor playrooms.

Staffing

The service employs 14 staff to work with the preschool children attending the service including the registered provider. There is a designated person in charge on the premises daily who assists across the rooms as needed. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,
Regulation 19 (a)Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 inspectors wish 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)(a)(b)

On the day of the inspection there was a designated person in charge of the service.

The registered provider was on the premises on the day and assisted as needed throughout the rooms. The service had a second staff member who was the designated person in charge in the absence of the registered provider.

(2) The staff files for 14 staff working directly with children were reviewed on the day.

(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees were kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.

- (d)
Police vetting disclosures were available on file for the staff who had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
- (4)
Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool 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)
On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children at all times. There were 70 children with 13 staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection.
- (2)
On the morning of the inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:
- In the baby Maple room, there were 4 children aged 0 to 2 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
 - In the toddler Chestnut room, there were 17 children aged 1 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
 - In the Holly room, there were 16 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
 - In Killegney house, there were 33 children aged 3 years to 5 years old being cared for by 4 staff.

During the afternoon of the inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

- In the baby Maple room, there were 4 children aged 0 to 2 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- In the toddler Chestnut room, there were 15 children aged 1 to 3 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- In the Holly room, there were 9 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- In the Killegney house, there were 22 children aged 3 to 5 years old being cared for by 3 staff.

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 reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection.

The routine of the children in the baby Maple room was led by the needs of the child. The daily activities were planned around the routine of the children. For example, the morning snack was offered to children either before or after their mid-morning sleep. The children were provided with opportunities for sensory/messy play and rotated between the indoor and outdoor spaces during the day.

The children in the toddler Chestnut room worked in small groups and rotated between the outdoor and indoor spaces. The children were appropriately dressed in warm clothes, wet suits and footwear while playing outside. Attention to personal care was evident during the morning. For example, children had their wet suits and wellies removed, nappies were changed, and hands and faces cleaned before settling to sleep. Lunch was offered in small groups and served in the kitchen as they woke after sleeps.

Inside the house, soft music played in the background creating a calm environment. Staff were seen to sit and hold young babies for feeding. Staff sat in cosy areas and read books and played games with the children.

Opportunities for sensory/ tactile and messy play was freely available in the rooms and outside. For example, children were talking about bees, and they used cardboard to cut out and paint as bees.

They also reused tiles for painting on, with stencils made from cork and celery. The outdoor areas were fully enclosed which allowed the children space and freedom to fully move around and explore unhampered.

The staff were observed interacting positively with children throughout the day. Staff were down at the child's level, listening, asking questions and chatting throughout the service.

Throughout the premises, the play and learning were led by the children, with staff observed as facilitators to this play and learning. The physical and material environments were well developed and thought out to encourage exploration and learning. The interest areas set up were rich in learning experiences. For example, children were seen "building fences" with pieces of timber and plastic piping. Other children were fascinated by objects that float and sink.

The balance area was set up with materials such as beams, rocks, tyres and blocks on ground covered with mulch. The items were not fixed so the children could risk assess and figure out risky play themselves. The environments also took into account the age and stage of development of the children. For example, the older aged children in Killegney house had stations set up as kitchen/restaurants to practice fine motors skills which included peelers, cutters and knives which were used for chopping, cutting and peeling fruit and vegetables.

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 outdoor areas were all fully enclosed by boundary walls and gates. Cleaning products were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff. Children were observed washing their hands before eating, after outdoor play, toileting, and nappy changing. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand washing throughout the service.

During nappy changing, staff adhered to the services nappy changing policy. Staff ensured that they wore gloves and aprons during the process and both child and staff hands were washed after changes.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with best practices in safe sleep and carried out physical checks on individual sleeping children every 10 minutes, recording individual children's sleep positions, colour and breathing. The staff members in the baby, toddler and holly rooms remained in the room while children were sleeping. Younger children were placed to sleep in cots, with older children settled to sleep on mattresses.

All children were provided with an opportunity to sleep or rest during the day. All of the rooms had designated spaces conducive to resting during the day. For example, there was a sofa in Killegney house for older children.

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 FAR first aid available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position 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 in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 13 February 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm was last serviced in September 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.