

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016WX004		
Name of Service:	Cot 2 Crayons		
Address of Service:	The Ballagh Community Centre, Ballaghkeen, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
Eircode:	Y21 XF21		
Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Keogh Leacy		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	01/10/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM NA
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 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

Cots 2 Crayons is a privately operated early years service which offers a sessional service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 9.15am to 12.15pm Monday to Friday and can accommodate up to 22 children. The early years service is located in the community centre in the village of The Ballagh outside Enniscorthy. The service consists of a large playroom, sanitary accommodation, an indoor and outdoor play area, and a kitchen.

Staffing

The service employs four staff to work in the service including the registered provider. The registered provider is the designated person in charge on the premises daily and works with the children in 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 was 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)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,
Regulation 11(1)(2)(4) – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 19 - Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of the Child,
Regulation 25 – First Aid, 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the *registered provider, person in charge, 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)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

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

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

There were certificates of qualification for all staff members working directly with the preschool children 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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(3)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

During the morning there were 3 staff caring for 18 children.

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 service consisted of a large playroom, with direct access to an indoor play area. The room was equipped with a wide variety of play materials, which were of good quality and suitable for the age and stage of development for the children. Open shelving had boxes of materials such as puzzles and jigsaws which allowed children to access materials independently during free play. The staff set up invitations to play including the art station at tables for the children to freely choose what they wished to play with. The playroom had personalised touches that included family photos, birthday walls, a helper chart and a daily check in for the children which comprised of photographs of the children to attached to a check in placard/board. During the morning the children and staff sat together to have their morning snack. The children washed their hands and the helpers for the day handed out the lunchboxes to their friends. The children ate a wide variety of foods that included crackers, sandwiches, fruits, yogurt and cheese. Children drank from their individual bottles and beakers, which were located on a table in the room that they could access throughout the morning.

At collection time, parents were observed to collect the children directly from the playroom. Parents were provided with feedback on their child's day from the staff member caring for them that day.

The outdoor area was fully enclosed and provided children with sufficient space. The area included a mud kitchen, sand play, a slide and digging areas. The children were observed to enjoy time in the outdoor area, free play, tabletop activities such as painting, story time, dancing and snack time together during the morning.

The service had a quiet area for children to rest during the day and there were soft sofas and reading materials was available to the 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)
The registered provider had ensured that a person trained in first aid responder was available to the children at all times.
- (2)
A suitably equipped first aid box was in the service and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a sessional service care for 22 children.