

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2017CE077

Name of Service: Spraioi Early Learning Centre

Address of Service: Heather Hill, Limerick Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

Eircode: V95PO34

Name of Registered Provider: Theresa Murphy

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 14/01/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	69	PM	67
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Tusla Child and Family Agency
Primary Care Centre
Station Road
Ennis
County Clare.

Inspection undertaken by: A.McCarthy & S.Meehan

Title: Early Years Inspectors

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

Spraoui Early Learning Centre was established in 2017, as a privately owned service on the outskirts of Ennis town. The service facilitates care and learning for children on a full day care basis, Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00. The single storey, purpose-built childcare facility accommodates five care rooms and three sleep rooms. The care rooms included the Penguin room (age range: two to three years), the Dinosaur room (age range: one year old), the Chicks room (age range: one year old), the Hippos room (age range: one to two years) and the Giraffe room (age range: three to four years). Designated play areas are located at the rear and side of the building. A large car park with set down parking is available to the front of the building.

Staffing

The service employs sixteen adults. The registered provider is the owner of the childcare facility and does not work in the service. On the 14 January 2025 the area manager, the service manager, twelve adults who worked directly with the children and an auxiliary person who prepares, cooks and serves the food were present. Both the area manager and service manager provided an administrative role and provided cover in the care rooms during inspection.

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 inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 – Insurance

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, service manager, 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)

During the inspection a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

On the 14 January 2025 the area manager and the service manager were available on the premises at all times.

(2)

Seventeen files were available for the registered provider and adults employed by the service. These files were reviewed, and the following was noted:

(2)(a)

Twenty-eight written references with evidence of verification were available from past employers.

- (b)
Six written references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)
Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect all adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
International police vetting was available in respect of eight adults who lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4)
All the adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from level 5 to 8 or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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)
During the inspection an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children who attended the service.
- (2)
An adequate number of adults cared for the children at all times during the inspection. On the 14 January 2025 fourteen adults cared for sixty-nine children in the morning and sixty-seven children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available 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

- (1)(a)
The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard to age and level of development of the children:

Basic Needs of Children:

The adults cared for the children in a kind and caring manner and positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The children were treated in a respectful manner, soft tones of voice were used, and the children's needs were responded to promptly. The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning whilst caring for their belongings and using the toilet. The children were supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities. The children navigated the indoor and outdoor environments to engage in play-based activities. The adults demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's personal interests, and capabilities. The transitions between activities, sleep and mealtime were completed with ease and the children were notified in

advance of any changes. Children who did not wish to sleep were offered an alternative activity while their peers slept. The parents/guardians provided healthy and nutritious snacks, and the childcare service provided the lunchtime and afternoon meals. The children sat together and conversed amicably during mealtime. Beverages were freely available and accessible to the children in the care rooms.

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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured with a keypad and a bell operated system to monitor people’s entry to the service. The internal and external entry and exit points prevented children exiting or unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- The outdoor area was secured with a high fence, concrete wall, and gate.
- The children were supervised at all times during the inspection and the children’s arrival and departure to the service was recorded on the service’s electronic recording system for each care room.
- Hazardous items were stored out of reach of the children, cupboards and storage areas were secured with child safety devices to prevent the children accessing the contents within.
- Medication was stored in a secure cabinet out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The children’s and adult’s sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined and pedal operated bins.
- The observed nappy changes were completed in accordance with the service’s infection control policy. A nappy changing procedure was displayed in each of the nappy changing facilities.
- Both the children and the adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.
- Perishable food items and beverages were stored in the refrigerators in each care room.
- The children’s soothers were stored in individually labelled containers.
- The children’s bedlinen and personal care items were labelled and stored individually.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered during the inspection.
- A policy on administration of medication was available to inform staff of the service's practices and staff confirmed that they had received training.
- Parental consent was available for prescription and non-prescription medications given to the children in attendance.

Safe Sleep:

- A safe sleep policy was available to inform staff of the service's practices.
- The three designated sleep rooms accommodated standard sized cots for the babies to sleep. Low level beds and mattresses were available for children to sleep in the care rooms. Areas for the children to rest and relax were available in each room with soft furnishings.
- The sleep room temperatures were maintained between 16 to 20 ° Celsius during the inspection. A thermometer was available in the sleep rooms for staff to measure and monitor the room temperatures.
- The children's sleep observations were recorded by staff every ten minutes on the service's electronic application device. The observations recorded included the children's colour, position, and breathing.

Fire Safety:

- Staff maintained records of up-to-date fire safety training.
- The fire exit doors and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire exit routes, and fire assembly points were readily identified with clear and illuminated signage.

Outing:

- The manager confirmed that outings are not undertaken by the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Non-disposable nappies in use were inappropriately stored in a plastic bucket in the lobby outside the baby room. This posed a potential risk of cross infection.
2. The bucket was not suitable for storage of nappies in accordance with public health best practice guidance. The lid on the bucket had to be touched each time a soiled, non-disposable nappy was inserted. This posed a potential risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

Corrective Actions:

1. Non- disposable nappies and bucket for them was removed from the setting.
2. Spoke with Parents and explained that it was high risk of cross infection, and the service could not facilitate this anymore.

Preventive Actions:

1. The service will no longer allow non-disposable nappies into the setting.
2. The service will always ensure that suitable pedal nappy bins that do not show any potential of cross infection will be used.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary Evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider provided corrective and preventive actions in response to the non-compliances found on inspection. The implemented actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

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)
Two adults had a record of up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training and were rostered to be available on the premises.
- (2)(a)
A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the office at the entrance to the service.
- (b)
A first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency in 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)
Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 18 December 2024.
- (b)
Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system took place respectively on the 18 November 2024 and the 27 March 2024.
- (4)
Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for seventy-seven children attending the service on a full day care basis.
The policy is valid until the 27 March 2025.