

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017CE077
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Name of Service:	Spraoui Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	Heather Hill, Limerick Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
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Eircode:	V95PO34
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Name of Registered Provider:	Theresa Murphy
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	21/05/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	67	PM	67
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Quality and Regulation Directorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ennis Primary Centre, Station Road, Ennis, County Clare. V95TY4E
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan and M. Riordan.
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
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Description of service

Spraoi 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 8 am to 6 pm. The single storey, purpose-built childcare facility accommodates five care rooms and three sleep rooms. The care rooms included the Penguin room (age range: three to four years), the Dinosaur room (age range: two to three years), the Chicks room (age range: one to two years), the Hippos room (age range: two to three 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 eighteen adults. The registered provider does not work in the service. The area manager, the service manager, fourteen adults who worked directly with the children and a chef who prepares, cooks and serves the food were present. The designated person in charge provides an administrative role and provided cover in the care rooms during inspection. The area manager covering care in the playrooms and had an administrative role during the 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 may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (k).

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.

Additional Information

The inspection was triggered by information received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, 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*
- (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 there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy was available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

(c) Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) Since the last inspection on the 16/04/2024 and the 17/04/2024 no new staff, had commenced in the service. The service was compliant with this part of the Regulation on the last inspection.

(4) All staff held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 morning of the inspection, there were sixty-seven preschool children present with fifteen adults working directly with, caring and supervising these children.
- In the afternoon, of the inspection, there were sixty- seven children present being cared for by fifteen adults.
- The person in charge and area manager assisted with the administration duties of the inspection and provide relief cover in the playrooms.
- (2) The roster indicated that the adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the day.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service: (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (1)(k) Fifteen accidents, incidents, and injury forms for pre-school children in attendance were reviewed.
- Thirteen of these forms were completed with a signed parental signature.

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:

There was evidence that the accident and incident policy was being implemented in the service.

- Documented evidence was available of risk assessments carried out after an accident or incident.
- On speaking with the staff, they had a clear understanding of their role and responsibilities in relation to an accident and incident.
- There was evidence that staff were trained and signed off on training provided by the service in relation to accidents or incidents.

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 registered provider ensured that all children were appropriately supervised, when attending the service. On the day of inspection, constant careful supervision by both sight and sound occurred to ensure children's safety. The adults were observed supervising children in the outdoor play areas, at toileting, in the playroom and at sleep time on stackable beds and in the designated sleep rooms.