

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018CC506
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Name of Service:	New Generation Preschool
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Address of Service:	Ashbourne Villa, Glounthaune, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T45 V201
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Name of Registered Provider:	Irene Heredia Arino
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/07/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	16
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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	N/A
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Description of service

New Generation Preschool is a privately owned, full day care service, that also provides part time and sessional care and education. It is registered to cater for early years children, aged two to six years and implements play based pedagogy. A sessional service is offered from 9.00am to 12.00pm, over 38 weeks of the year, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates 50 weeks annually, with daily opening hours from 7.30am to 6.00pm. A registered school age service is also available.

Located in the village of Glounthaune in Co. Cork, the premises consists of a two-storey, detached building. There are two operational care rooms on the ground floor, along with child and adult sanitary facilities, a gym room and a kitchen. The first floor consists of a large, partitioned care room, a school age room, child sanitary facilities and a staff room. The children have the use of a designated outdoor play environment, at the rear of the building and an office space is also located in this area.

Staffing

There are currently eight adults employed at the early years setting, six of whom are involved in the day-to-day care of the early years children. In addition, the registered provider can provide cover in the care rooms, if required. Each of these seven adults have achieved a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education. The eighth adult works with school age children and also carries out kitchen duties.

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.

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, 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) The designated person in charge of operating the service was the registered provider. The requirement for a deputy person in charge was also met.
- (b) The registered provider was available at the service when the inspector arrived and remained on site throughout the inspection process.

(2) Recruitment records in relation to the eight adults employed at the setting were reviewed and the following was noted:

- (a) Fifteen of the 16 required written and validated references were from past employers.
- (b) One reference had been obtained from a source other than a previous employer and a corresponding record of validation was in place.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all eight staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for seven of the adults and copies of the relevant documents were maintained on file, with suitable translations into English also available.
- (4) Documentation on file confirmed that each of the seven adults, who were involved in the direct care and education of the children, held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications, or as recognised by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

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) There was a sufficient number of adults observed to be available to the children throughout the period of inspection.
- (2) The requirements of the regulation in relation to the minimum ratio of adults to children, were adhered to. The rooms were in operation as follows:
- Morning:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Blue room (2 ½ - 4 years)	8	1
Red room (3 - 5 years)	8	1

The registered provider was also available during the morning and a third staff member commenced at approximately 11.00am.

Afternoon:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Blue room (2 ½ - 4 years)	8	1
Red room (3 - 5 years)	8	1

The care rooms on the first floor were not in operation at the time of inspection.

- (8)
- (a) According to the staff roster, the service was operated with at least two adults present at all times. A minimum of two adults were also on duty throughout the inspection process.

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:
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
 - (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

Compliance Information

- (i) A staff roster was in place for the current week and was noted to detail start and finish times, as well as break cover.
- (k) Accident and incident records were maintained on a digital application. A sample of 10 records were assessed and deemed satisfactory.

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)

Basic needs:

- Observed mealtime practices were relaxed and social; the children chatted freely, while the adults sat alongside them and joined in the various conversations.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children both during and outside of the designated mealtimes. In both care rooms, the children's own reusable water bottles were stored on low-level shelves and could be easily retrieved, as needed.
- The adults supported the children to use the toilet facilities independently and offered prompts and reminders in relation to handwashing practice. Children in nappies were also attended to.
- Over the course of the day, the children had opportunities to experience a variation of adult-led and child-initiated activities. For example, staff members facilitated story time and painting activities and during free play, the children were observed to engage in imaginary play and table top activities.
- Children who wished to rest had access to a suitable rest area in each care room.
- It was observed that the care rooms had adequate space to accommodate the free movement of children, as they engaged in play and exploration. Due to wet weather conditions, outdoor play was not observed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- Breakfast, a hot meal and an afternoon snack were offered at the service, while children brought their own snacks from home.
- The main lunch meal and the afternoon snack were prepared in the onsite kitchen by a designated staff member. A weekly menu was available and displayed to this effect and was noted to include a variety of meal options.
- On the morning of inspection, examples of the children’s snacks included rice cakes, yogurt and fruit. At lunch time, the children had sausages with a selection of vegetables and garlic bread. Water was available as a drink at mealtimes.

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:

- A doorbell was in place on the main entrance door for parents and visitors, in order to reduce the likelihood of unauthorised access.
- Outdoors, the play area was enclosed by a combination of walls and a secured gate.
- Children’s access to the kitchen was prevented through engaging a high-level sliding bolt lock, while said room was not in use.
- All of the examined play materials appeared safe and in good working order.
- Cleaning agents were stored at a height that was inaccessible by children. Bottles of sunscreen were also maintained out of the children’s reach.
- There were no trailing cables or flexes accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the sanitary facility adjoining the Blue room, including warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lidded, pedal-operated bin. The children were observed to wash their hands before eating and were reminded to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- It was noted that the children's perishable snacks were brought from the refrigerator into the care rooms, prior to the mid-morning snack. Refrigerating such food items helped to reduce the risk of food spoilage.
- Both of the care rooms in operation appeared clean, tidy and well maintained. Staff were observed to sanitise the tables before the mid-morning snack and swept the floor, after the children had finished eating. Completed cleaning records were also visible within the rooms.
- There was individual storage in place for the children's personal belongings; wall hooks were provided for their coats and their bags were maintained in cubby shelving.
- Floor brushes and pans were wall mounted.

Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed. Furthermore, the inspector was advised that none of the children were in receipt of medication.

Safe Sleep:

- None of the children were noted to sleep during the period of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits doors were maintained free from any obstruction that may delay a timely exit in the event of a fire.

Outing:

- Not applicable, as an outing from the service did not take place.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Warm running water was not available at two of the wash hand basins; in the nappy changing room, the water temperature was recorded at 16.8°C and in the staff sanitary facility, a water temperature reading of 16.9°C was taken. Cold water temperatures may impede effective handwashing. This was also found at the previous inspection on 28 November 2022. The CAPA response at the time stated that the hot water had been fixed and that a plan was in place to upgrade the plumbing system. However, this remained an issue.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The written reply stated that the issue has been resolved and that there is hot water available in all of the toilet facilities. The registered provider will ensure that action is taken if there are issues with the warm water in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

Video evidence to demonstrate that warm water is now available at the two wash hand basins.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has demonstrated that the non-compliance identified under regulation 23 has been resolved.

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) First Aid Response (FAR) certification was on file for one of the adults who worked at the setting. The registered provider also advised that a second staff member had recently completed FAR training and that certification was awaited. Correspondence from the course facilitator was available to this effect.

(2)

(a) Two first aid boxes were accessible to adults; one in the kitchen and a second in the staff room.

(b) The first aid supplies were consistently available during the hours of operation.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, an adult with current FAR training was not available to the children between 7.30am and 11.00am. It was acknowledged that four of the adults who worked at the setting held up to date paediatric first aid and that two of these adults were present prior to 11.00am. However, a FAR trained adult is required to be available to the children at all times.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has confirmed that a staff member with up-to-date First Aid Response training will always be available at the service and has stated that she will continue to ensure that First Aid training is part of staff training.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of FAR certification for a second staff member.

Summary Comment

The response submitted by the registered provider is accepted in meeting the regulatory requirements.

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) The monthly fire drills which had been previously conducted were recorded in writing. The most recent fire drill was noted to have been undertaken on 25 June 2024.
 - (b) A list of the number and type of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was displayed. Recent servicing records indicated that the firefighting equipment was last checked on 3 August 2023 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 8 January 2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation notice was visible in the main entrance area.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate indicated that sufficient cover was in place for the provision of a full day care service and the policy was valid until 27 March 2025.