

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018GY514
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Spraoi Early Learning Centre
-------------------------	------------------------------

Address of Service:	Stradbally North, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	H91 DP7K
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Theresa Murphy
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	26/03/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	43
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan and B. Lavin.
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Spraoui Early Learning Centre is a privately owned childcare service in Clarinbridge, Co Galway. The service offers a full day, part time and sessional programme of care from Monday to Friday from 08.00 to 18.00. The sessional service operates between 09.30 to 12.30. The programme of care caters for children ranging in age from 0 to 6 years of age. The service has five playrooms and four playrooms were in operation during the inspection. The service has three designated sleep rooms and a kitchen where the hot meals prepared in another service are reheated. There is also a designated utility, staff kitchen and dining area in a separate building. A secured large outdoor play area for children's is located to the rear and side of the building.

Staffing

There were 11 adults which included the manager working directly with the children in the service, a cook, an area manager and general manager. After the inspector's arrival the area manager arrived and assisted with the inspection. The registered provider was not present and does not work in the service.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 general 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.*

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The manager was the adult in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b) The manager and a deputy manager were available throughout the inspection.

Since the last inspection on the 17 February 2025, there were six new adults employed in the service. These files were reviewed.

(2)(a) Nine of the 12 written and validated references were from past employers were available.

(b) Three of the 12 written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 11 adults working in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (d) International police vetting was available for six adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4) Eleven adults working directly with the children and the area manager held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging at Level 5 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
- (7)(a) Evidence was available through staff training records that they had received induction training on the following policies:
- Policy on Behaviour Management.
 - Supervision policy.
 - Complaints policy.
 - Induction & Staff Training policy.
 - Risk Management Policy.

A supervision policy was in place in the service and the manager confirmed that meetings are held every eight weeks with staff. During the inspection, the manager was observed to visit each room and communicate with staff regarding break cover and other information.

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 in attendance.
- (2) The ratio of adults caring for children was maintained in the care rooms. Eleven adults cared for the 43 children attending the service in the morning and 11 adults cared for 43 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available on the premises during the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

operation of the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) to (i) The inspectors reviewed a sample of 10 children's records registered with the service. The records contained the required details as laid out under the Regulation.

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

- (k) A sample of six accident, injury or incident records involving pre-school children attending the service were reviewed. The records reviewed detailed a signed parental signature after the accident/incident occurred.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(19)(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious and consisted of a selection of sandwiches, fruit, crackers and cheese.
- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Crockery and plates were given to children during snack times, laid out on low tables in the outdoor play area.
- The children had access to a water on a low-level table, which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty. Each child also had their own water drinking bottle.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Children either toileted independently or with some assistance as required from adults.
- Nappy changing took place in the three nappy changing areas throughout the inspection and best practice was observed in line with the service policy.
- The children were observed playing in a variety of special interest areas, at free play, tabletop activities, circle time, outdoor play and group games.
- The theme for the week was 'Easter' and childrens art work was displayed on the walls to reflect the theme.

Supporting Relationships:

- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians. Individual care programmes were in place where required.
- Communication with parents was provided at collection and drop off times, via text messages, on a multimedia application, weekly newsletter and by phone calls.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Each child had a learning journal which was available and reflected each child's work and development over the year including their art and craft work.
- Adults were observed to pick up on children's cues, showing them empathy and encouraging children throughout the day for example toileting, assistance with activities and the need for sleep.
- Adults were observed to communicate effectively with one another to complete and organise activities. This made transitions calm and relaxed for the preschool children.
- Adults worked in partnership with families and were observed giving feedback to parents on how their child got on for the day.
- Children were familiar with the adults. This supported children to form positive relationships with adults.

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 door into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or a child exiting unsupervised.
- The outdoor play areas were secured by fencing, concrete walls and gates so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible and stored out of reach from the children.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing by the children was observed prior to eating snacks, lunch and after toileting.
- There were paper towels provided at wash hand basins to facilitate hand drying by the children and the adults. Dispensers for liquid soap were provided at sinks and wash hand basins.
- Running water for use by the pre-school children was thermostatically controlled to not exceed 43°C to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Suitable nappy disposal bins were available and nappies were disposed of in a sealed, airtight container.
- The service had a system for sterilising soothers for younger children.
- There were daily and weekly cleaning rota and cleaning was documented.
- Perishable items belonging to children were stored in the service fridges.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored safely in the service kitchen.
- Medication that was administered was recorded on the childcare application device.

Safe Sleep:

- There was two designated sleep rooms with nine cots respectively for children younger than 2 years of age. Additionally, there were four sleep beds, sleep mats and stackable beds were available for older children who required sleep.
- Physical sleep checks on sleeping children were carried out and documented by staff every 10 minutes.
- Safe sleep plans were available for 4 children over 15 months who were put down on sleep beds and were in line with best practice.
- A thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording sleep room temperatures were above 16 °C and below 20 °C. The temperatures in the playrooms during sleep were maintained above 18 °C and below 22 °C.
- A supply of clean linen was available and stored in individual containers.

Fire Safety:

- The service completed monthly fire drills to support the safe evacuation in the event of a fire.
- Fire exit signage and assembly points were noted.

Outing:

- The manager confirmed that outings were not undertaken.

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 available on the premises on the day.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the office.
- (b) A first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

During the inspection the general manager, area manager, manager and staff ensured that the preschool children were adequately supervised in the indoor and outdoor environments.

The adult child ratio was maintained in each playroom and in the outdoor play area. This was evidenced by the staff roster and observations by the inspectors on the day.

To reduce the risk of a child leaving the service unsupervised the service had implemented a head count before going out to the outdoor area and a check prior to returning to the playrooms. This was to ensure that all children were accounted for in the outdoor area.

It was observed on the day that the staff ensured that children were supervised during sleep, mealtimes, in the playrooms, in the outdoor play area, while children used the sanitary areas and during nappy changing. The staff were observed to supervise children by sound and by sight.