

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018KK503		
Name of Service:	Kells Community Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Kells Resource Centre, c/o St. Brigid's National School, Kells, Co. Kilkenny		
Eircode:	R95 VFV0		
Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Knox		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	10/06/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford		
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry		
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

This sessional service is operated from a preschool room in St. Brigid's National School in Kells Co Kilkenny. The service is registered to provide a service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 09:15hrs to 12:30hrs Monday to Friday for 38 weeks per year. The preschool room is situated in the main school building. The service has access to toilets and a large outdoor area that is safe, suitable, and secure.

Staffing

There were two staff employed in the service. Both staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

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

Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures,

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.

Additional Information

An immediate action notice was issued on the day of inspection in relation to regulation 25 First aid. There was no staff member trained in a first aid responder course available to the children in the service. It is acknowledged the manager responded on the 11 June 2024 with a plan to address the non-compliance found.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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 manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were two staff employed in the service. Both files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were four written and validated references available on file from past employers for the two staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for both staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Both staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework

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)
There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.

(3)
At 11:00hrs.
There were 14 children aged 2 to 6 years of age in the care of 2 staff.

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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including enjoying story time and free play in the outdoor area. The children were observed playing in the outdoor area. Staff were observed to be attentive to the children, encouraging them to share and take turns with their friends.

The group was divided in to two groups in the outdoor area. Of note was how staff encouraged the children to prepare for starting national school in September 2024. Staff were observed settling the children on soft cushions and reading a story called "Little Tiger Starts School". This story encouraged the children to anticipate this new stage in their lives. Staff were observed skilfully asking the children what they would do in different situations. For example, "If you don't know where to put your coat and bag on the first day, what would you do?"

Children were observed using their imaginations in the outdoor area. They were playing a game called "cows". They were crawling on all fours and pretending to be cows in a field. Staff who were looking after the children supervised and encouraged the children in their choice during free play.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service was well resourced with play equipment and materials for the children to enjoy. The preschool room was well developed with areas of interesting displays such as a large poster with all the birds of Ireland displayed. There was original artwork displayed which the children had recently created. One child described what they had made. It was a trunk of a tree painted brown and the leaves were made of the child's hands. The child said they were looking forward to taking the painting home for their parents to see. There was a supply of picture and story books for the children to read. There was a varied number of plastic bricks, small cars, dinosaurs and art materials stored on easily accessible shelves in the preschool room.

The outdoor area had been further developed since the last inspection. There was a new jungle gym in place in the outdoor area. The structure contained two slides, two tree houses, three swings, a ladder and a walk way between the two tree houses. Children were observed to enjoy the challenge of climbing up the ladder with their friends. There was a supply of ride on toys for the children to play with also. The children also had access to sheltered houses where they could bring out some toys from the preschool if they wanted to.

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

The manager took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

GENERAL SAFETY

All cleaning agents were stored in a safe and secure area which was inaccessible to children. Access to the service was gained through the front door of the national school which was secure on arrival by the inspector.

INFECTION CONTROL

The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. Daily and weekly cleaning schedules were recorded and maintained in the service. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot controlled lidded bins were available throughout the service. Good hand washing practice was observed on the day of inspection. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play. All snacks were stored in the fridge which was situated in the preschool room in the service.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was no person available to the children who was trained in a first aid responder course in the service on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that the manager responded promptly to the non-compliance found on the day of inspection. Evidence that a staff member had completed a FAR course was received by the inspector on 24 June 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service will ensure there is a person always trained in a First aid responder course available to the children attending the service going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence that there is a person trained in a first aid responder course in the service was received by the inspector .

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 regulation .

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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in May 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in March 2024. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the service was carried out in December 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the children who were present on the day of inspection