

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2018LK503
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Name of Service:	Green Kids Preschool
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Address of Service:	Effin National School, Effin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35 RH51
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Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Offices, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Riordan
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
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Description of service

Green Kids Pre-school is a sessional pre-school service operating from a classroom in Effin Primary School in Co. Limerick. It operates from 9.00am to 12.00pm, Monday to Friday. There are at present 22 children registered to attend the service. On the day of the Inspection there were 20 preschool children in attendance. The service operates from a large, well-resourced playroom. There are sanitary facilities located directly next to the pre-school room.

A spacious outdoor playground, outdoor classroom and garden area with a large poly tunnel are located on the grounds of the primary school which are accessible to the children each day for outdoor play.

Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge of running the service. Three additional staff are employed to work at the service. Relief staff are also available if required. Each staff working at the service holds a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a second person available to deputise if required.

(b) The staff roster indicated that the registered provider or the deputy person were available on the premises every day.

(2)(a) Two written references were available for each staff.

(b) All references were from the previous employers or from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff working at the facility.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the state for longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) All staff held an appropriate qualification 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.*
- (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) On the day of the inspection there were 20 pre-school children under the supervision of the registered provider and 3 additional. The adult/child ratio was above the ratio required under regulation 11.
- (3) The registered providers ensured that at all times the ratio adults to children present in the service met the requirements of the regulations.

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 sample of 14 of the children's registration forms were reviewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of these children.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) provision to record 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 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 received by the child.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*

- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) The name, position, qualifications, and experience of the persons in charge.*
 - (b) Details of the type of service in operation and the age profile of children for which the facility is registered to provide services.*
 - (c) Details of the adult: child ratios in the service.*
 - (d) The type of care or programme provided in the service.*
 - (e) The facilities available.*
 - (f) The opening hours and fees.*
 - (g) A record in writing was maintained of policies and procedures required in accordance with Regulation 10 and were found to be comprehensive and detailed.*
 - (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child daily.*
 - (i) Rosters were maintained on a daily basis and available for inspection. These correlated with the numbers that were present on the day of inspection.*
 - (j) The service had a medication administration record template available that could be used in the event of a child requiring medication to be administered at the service.*
 - (k) Details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

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

BASIC NEEDS:

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and parents were advised to provide only nutritious snacks for break time. Perishable foods were stored safely in a refrigerator each day until required. Drinking water was accessible to the children at all times, with each child having easy access to their own bottle of water. Low level tables and chairs were used for dining at break time and staff were on hand to offer assistance at lunch time if needed. Snack time was noted to be a relaxed and sociable time and children were not rushed when eating.

Treats were allowed on the day of the inspection to mark a child's birthday at the service.

Sanitary accommodation was located next to the preschool room so staff could supervise children at all times by sight and by sound. Children had unrestricted access to the toilets. Tissues and wipes were accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins.

A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Outdoor coats and boots were available for children to ensure they got outside every day regardless of weather conditions.

Children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. A large couch provided a rest space for children if they needed a rest away from active play areas. Outdoors the children had access to the school playground, to a sheltered outdoor area, to a large garden at the rear and to a polytunnel for planting and gardening.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operated from a large well-designed classroom. The room had a range of developmentally appropriate, interest areas for the children e.g., a construction area, home corner/ imagination play area, a rest and relaxation reading/literacy area and lots of messy play spaces. The room layout was regularly adjusted, and equipment was rotated depending on the children's new abilities, interests, curriculum programme and the children's stage of development.

All the play materials and equipment were organised to be visible and easily accessible to the children on open low-level shelving. Child sized chairs and tables with hidden trays were used by the children for tabletop activities. The inset trays could be used for general storage or for sand and water play.

Language, literacy skills and development of speech and vocabulary were fostered using stories, songs and drama. Childrens artwork was clearly displayed throughout the room.

The outdoor play area has space for more active play opportunities. The school yard was accessible to the children each day and a large garden area was also available to the pre-school children for gardening and planting. These facilities outside ensured that the outdoors provided an extension of the well-planned indoors and was linked with the continuous learning that goes on in the classroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that adequate insurance was available for 22 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28th of March 2023 and expired on the 27th of March 2024.