

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020CC003		
Name of Service:	Blossom Grove, Togher Family Centre		
Address of Service:	18A Maglin Grove, Deanrock Est, Togher, Co. Cork		
Eircode:	T12 TP8E		
Name of Registered Provider:	Niamh Sheridan		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	23/05/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM Not assessed
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork		
Inspection undertaken by:	C Stokes		
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		

Description of service

Blossom Grove, Togher Family Centre is a community sessional service operating since 2020. It is located in a purpose-built premises, directly opposite Togher Family Centre in a residential area of Cork city. This service is registered to operate a morning and afternoon session daily. The service comprises of one playroom, kitchenette, children & staff toilets, and children have access to the main outdoor area at Togher family Centre. The setting has a play based pedagogical approach to support the child's learning and development and integrate into the service.

Staffing

The registered provider is not service based. All staff working directly with the children in the service had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, except for the student.

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 deputy 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) The registered provider ensured there was a named person in charge (PIC) of operating the service.

(b) In addition to the person in charge (PIC), there were three deputy persons in charge. The PIC or a deputy were always on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure, which was on display in the service.

(2) (a) The staff recruitment files for all 8 adults were examined as part of this inspection. When the recruitment files were reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available from 11 past employers.

(b) Two validated, written references were available from 5 sources other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 8 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) One adult required out of jurisdiction police vetting which was available for inspection.

(4) A certificate of qualification in Early Childhood care and education at a minimum of QQI level 5 on the National Qualification framework was on file for 7 adults, the 8th adult was a student on placement.

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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(3) The ratio of adults to children was adequate with 4 adults working with 18 children.

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

- The service provided the morning snack, banana, pineapple, and brown bread. Water was served as a drink. Adults were observed to encourage/assist the children to make the snack time a social occasion, while encouraging independence. Adults were observed to sit at the tables and interact with the children during snack time.
- The majority of children were trained using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet and handwash afterwards.
- There was a cosy corner to provide for the children's need for relaxation during the session.

Programme of Activities

- The service had a daily timetable of activities, within which the children had opportunities to choose their activity and to take the lead.
- There was an emphasis on developing children's independence within the daily life in the service.
- Language development was facilitated with story time, rhymes, and songs.

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:

- External doors and internal doors were secured.
- Cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible and stored in the kitchenette.
- No blind cords, cables or trailing flexes/leads were observed.
- The outdoor area was fully fenced, and no hazards were observed.

Infection Control:

- Tables were observed to be cleaned down prior to snack.
- Hand washing was observed prior to snack. Adults assisted/supervised children with handwashing.
- A lidded, foot operated pedal bin was available in the toilets and playrooms for the disposal of paper towels.
- A fridge was in place for the storage of lunches.

Administration of Medication:

- The DPIC advised that no child required medication on the day of inspection

Safe Sleep:

- No child slept in this sessional service on the day of inspection

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit was not obstructed. No fire hazards were observed.

Outing:

- No outings were observed on the day of inspection. The service had an outings policy

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 fire fighting 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 registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the fire drills, the most recent drill was dated 22 May 2024.
- (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the firefighting equipment. The service record indicated the fire extinguishers were maintained in September 2023 and the fire alarm was most recently serviced in April 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at the fire point in the room.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

- (e)
- The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.
 - There were 2 children's toilets and sinks for the 22 children in attendance with a ratio of 1:11.
 - In addition, there was 1 staff toilet and sink for the adults, with a ratio of 1:8.
 - There was a nappy changing facility in the adult toilet to facilitate children who are not fully toilet trained.