

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2021CC003

Name of Service: Macroom Family Resource Centre, St Joseph's Services

Address of Service: St Joseph's National School
Chapel Hill
Macroom
Co Cork

Email Address: seamus@macroomfrc.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Mr Seamus O'Laoire

Type of Service Registered: **Sessional**

Date of Inspection: 3 1 0 1 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 7 **PM** n/a

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Early Years Services
Administration Building
St Mary's Health Campus
Gurrabraher
Cork
T23X440

Inspection undertaken by: Ms. M. O'Reilly
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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).

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Conditions If Applicable Not Applicable

Description of Service	Macroom Family Resource Centre, St Joseph’s Pre-school, first opened in September 2021. It is a community based registered early years sessional service that caters for children from aged two years ten months to six years and attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). The opening hours are from 09.15 to 12.15 hours daily.
Premises	Macroom Family Resource Centre, St Joseph’s Pre-school is located in a premise that was a derelict two storey building on the grounds of St Joseph’s National School. The premise has now been converted and refurbished to a high level and the ground floor suitably adapted as a childcare facility. The premise consists of, an entrance hall, one playroom, adequate adult and children’s toilet facilities. An area in the playroom has been suitably cornered off to provide a kitchenette and administration office space. The children will have access to the nearby school yard for outdoor play.
Staffing	There were two adults employed in the service and responsible for the direct care of the children. The registered provide is office based in the sister service. The two staff have obtained a recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education.
Methodology	<p>Tusla’s Early Years Inspectorate (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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>This inspection was announced and focused on areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service.</p> <p>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.</p>
Additional Information	The service had a Fit for Purpose Inspection of a new service prior to this inspection.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Childcare Manager, Person in Charge and children who were present on the day of the inspection.



GOVERNANCE

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—
- (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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person assigned to deputise as required.
 - (b) The childcare manager and the person in charge were on the premises when the inspector arrived on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of each of the 2 adults.
 - (d) Police vetting was available in respect of one of the adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for six months or more while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) The adults that worked directly with the children held a major award ranging from a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 6 to a level 8 degree 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:

- (1) +(3) On the day of the inspection there were two adults working directly with the seven children present in the morning session. During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (8) (c) Not applicable as the service was not operating single-handedly.

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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- The two adults present demonstrated a kind and caring regard for each child.
- The service provided the food and drink for the children while in the service. The food provided by the service was observed to be nutritious with adequate portion sizes of the food provided for each child. The children received slices of apple, grapes, cheese and a buttered cracker with the option of milk or water to drink for the mid-morning snack. The food was stored in a fridge located in the service kitchenette area.
- The children's need to use the toilet was promptly and sensitively attended to by the adult who assisted the children as required.
- The children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults who supported the children while in the service
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated indoors and outdoors during the inspection process.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The key person system was evident in the service which enabled children to form secure relationships with the staff members caring for them and to facilitate easier contact tracing should there be a case of Covid19 in the service.
- The adults were observed to be caring in her interactions with the children and were observed to be interested in the children's activities and listened and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language.
- Regular updates and information were furnished to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times, via the services electronic system including

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

written records of the children’s progress, key observations and the plan of activities is sent to each parent at the start of the week.

- Parents were given copies regarding the amended policies and response plan for the service in relation to Covid 19.
- During the inspection, the children initially had free play and then outdoor play where they went on a nature walk located on the border of the school ground. After the midmorning snack, the children were observed painting cardboard rolls and plastic bottles that will be used as plant potters. The session ended with the children having story book time where one of the staff read to the children two books, first book named “Say hello to the animals on the farm” lots of interaction observed where the children were heard making the different farm animal sounds like the dog, pig and a lamb and the second book was named “Scúinc agus Smúirin.”

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The playroom was observed to be clean, bright, pleasant comfortable and secure and had adequate space for the children to play.
- The shelving was set low to display play materials which were mostly plastic and wooden in nature and easily washable. The low shelving facilitated easy access to the materials by the children.
- There were different interest areas for example: a home, a fine motor skill, block and reading area. There were child size couches and soft seating beside the book area. All items of interest were stored at child level such as farm and zoo animals, play dolls, handheld cars and trucks, different sized blocks and a variety of art and craft materials.
- The outdoor area had a tarmac surface within the primary school grounds. Outdoor play was on a rotation system with the children in the class rooms in the national school.

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 main entrance door leading into the service was adequately secured preventing unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- The cleaning agents were adequately stored out of children’s reach.
- There was a suitably equipped first aid box in the service.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The person in charge was aware in relation to the requirement to self-isolate where appropriate and what to do if a child or staff become

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	<p>symptomatic while in the service and moving to the isolation area whilst maintaining social distancing of 2 meters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was available and used when required by staff in the service which included hand sanitizers, disposable single-use plastic aprons, non-powdered, non-permeable gloves, and face masks. • A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in the service. Toys/materials/equipment available to the children were cleaned after each session. • Each child had a spare set of clothes on site in case the clothes they were wearing became contaminated. • Playrooms and communal areas were adequately ventilated by natural forms of ventilation. • Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the playroom and toilet facilities of the service. • A supply of liquid soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer and bins for disposal of paper towels available throughout the service. • Hand washing was observed by both the staff and children in the service. There was thermostatically controlled hot water available for hygienic hand washing in the wash hand basins in the toilet areas. • There was evidence that the service had implemented measures to maintain physical distancing and to avoid congregations. • Visitors or external persons had been restricted in the service Attendance was kept for all children to the service so that if required contact tracing could easily be carried out.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

<p>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of—</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises</p> <p>(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises</p>	
Compliance Information:	<p>(1)</p> <p>(a) A record of monthly fire drills carried out by the service was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place at the premises on the 26th January 2021.</p> <p>(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of fire-fighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that fire equipment was last serviced</p>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

in June 2021. It was recorded that the smoke alarm system was last serviced in December 2021.

(4)

The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service