

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021KY001
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Name of Service:	Bluebells Preschool & Afterschool
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Address of Service:	Loreto National School, Scartlea, Muckcross, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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Eircode:	V93 AY90
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rosemary Falvey, Alison Maher
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	09/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	20	PM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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
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Description of service

Bluebells Preschool & Afterschool is a private early years service that provides part-time and sessional care for children aged between 2 years and 6 years. The service currently caters for children between the age of 2 years 8 months and 5 years. The service operates Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 9 am and 1.50 pm, the planned session is between the hours of 9.30 am and 12 mid-day. The children attending have access to a designated outdoor play area on site at alternate times to the children attending the national school.

Staffing

There are 5 adults currently employed in the service that includes the 2 registered providers. There are 2 adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme.

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.

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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 providers are the designated persons in charge and there is a named person who can deputize as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, either the registered providers or the named deputy is on the premises.
- (2) The registered provider working on the day of the inspection confirmed that 5 adults work in the service. The recruitment records in relation to the said 5 adults were reviewed.
- (a) 9 references and records of validation were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 1 reference and record of validation was on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 5 adults.
- (d) Police Vetting was on file for 2 adults who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to the adults were appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 to level 8

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) The registered provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) There were 3 staff members caring for 20 children aged between 2 years 11 months and 5 years, 11 children attending on a sessional basis and 9 children attending on a part-time basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a) The registered providers did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation as evidenced on the staff roster.

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) There was a sample of 11 records inspected, each record had the required detail as per(a) to (i).

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:

- (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 following records were kept:
- (h) details of attendance by each child on a daily basis
 - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis
 - (j) a template was available to record 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.

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

- The children enjoyed the freedom of movement within the playroom with its various designated play areas where the toys were available and accessible on low level open shelving and on the floor.
- An outdoor play area was available and accessible to the children each day at alternate times to the children attending the national school.

- The inspector observed the children playing both indoors and outdoors during the course of the inspection. The children that remained on a part-time basis were allowed the opportunity to choose if they wanted to play outdoors for a second time and were supported with their decision.
- The adults caring for the children were kind, patient, caring and it was evident they were mindful and respectful towards children's individual needs.
- The adults were observed to comfort children when they became upset, sitting with them and re-assuring and distracting them.
- The children were reminded of taking turns with their friends, the adults practised this in the outdoor play area for the use of the bikes.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the playroom, the inspector observed the adult's provided guidance and assistance with toileting and hand washing as was needed.
- The inspector observed children were accompanied to the toilet from playing outdoors in a timely manner.
- The playroom was furnished with various rest/relaxation areas that consisted of various sized couches, single chairs and a rug on the floor. It was observed the areas were availed of during the earlier part of the session.
- The mealtime observed was unhurried, children ate their food sitting at the low-level tables supervised by the adults and assisted as was needed.
- The parents provided the food for the mealtimes that consisted of sandwiches and a selection of fruit. The children that remained on in the service on a part-time basis had a second mealtime offered to them.
- Children who had finished eating before others played with their chosen toys and some took books from the selection of books on display.

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:

- All storage of cleaning agents was out of the reach of the children in secure cupboards in the playroom and on high shelving.
- The internal door to the national school was appropriately secured to prevent children gaining unsupervised access out of the playroom.
- The external door was secured to restrict unauthorised access in and to prevent children going out unsupervised.
- A secure area of timber fencing was in place in the vicinity of the entrance door.

Infection Control:

- A fridge was provided in the playroom and used to store the children's perishable food items to prevent food spoilage.
- The children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet, after playing outside, after messy play activities and before the mealtime.
- There was warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper hand towels for effective hand washing by the adults and the children to help prevent the risk of the spread of infection.

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) The 5 adults working with the children had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training, the certification in respect of same was on file.
- (2)
- (a) A first aid bag was provided; it was stored within a secure cupboard in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid bag was accessible to the adults and was out of the reach of the children

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) The first aid bag was not adequately stocked. The following items were not in stock in addition to the contents provided: -

- 2 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (medium).
- 3 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (extra-large)
- 6 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (large)-
- 20 individually wrapped disinfectant wipes.
- Pocket face mask
- Water burns dressings (1large)

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that: -

Corrective and Preventive Action

The first aid kit has been restocked with new supplies. The job of checking the first aid kit monthly has been assigned to a staff member other than the service provider. An expiry list has been compiled so that expiry dates can be clearly identified.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement and photograph submitted is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been met.

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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) A template to record each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 4.10.2023.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check for the smoke alarm was 17.01.2023 and the firefighting equipment was 16.09.2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was open to inspection.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24.