

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021SO001				
Name of Service:	Claire Barden Award Winning Childcare				
Address of Service:	Abhainn Mor, Ballincarrow, Collooney, Co. Sligo				
Eircode:	F91P310				
Name of Registered Provider:	Claire Barden				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	29/07/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>31</td> <td>PM</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </table>	AM	31	PM	26
AM	31	PM	26		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84				
Inspection undertaken by:	L Costello and F Carty				
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

This full day care service is located in the town of Collooney, Co Sligo and provides sessional, part time and fulltime care from 8.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday. The service is registered to cater for children aged between one and six years of age and is also registered to provide school age care. The service operates from a detached two-story building consisting of four care rooms. The two care rooms on the ground floor cater for the younger children and the first-floor care rooms cater for preschool and school aged children. A kitchen, sleep room, sanitary facilities and an office are located on the ground floor. To the rear and side of property is a large enclosed outdoor area with a roofed outdoor playroom.

Staffing

The service employs 11 staff members, 10 of which work directly with the preschool children and one adult who works with school age children only. The registered provider is on the premises daily and works directly with the children.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 inspectors wish 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*
- (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-

- (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*

Compliance Information

1) (a) (b).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2)

There had been no new adults employed in the service since the last inspection on the 12th of July 2023 as confirmed on a review of the inspectorates notes and confirmed with the registered provider.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 11 adults employed in the service. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for one adult. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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

(.) The following adult child ratios were observed at 10.20am.

- In the Senior preschool room, two adults cared for 11 children aged 3-5 years of age.

(2) The following adult child ratios were observed at 14.30pm.

- In the junior preschool room, two adults cared for eleven children aged 2-3 years.
- In the Senior preschool room, two adults cared for 11 children aged 3-5 years of age.

- Upstairs in the School age room, one adult cared for 3 children aged 4-5 years of age. There were also 9 school aged children in the room.

(8) (a)

The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced in a sample of attendance records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

(2) The registered provider did not ensure that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times as evidenced by the following:

- Between the hours of 10.15am and 10.40am there were eleven children aged 2-3 years and two children aged 1-2 years being cared for by two adults in the junior preschool room. The required ratio of adults to children for this age group is one adult to every five children for those aged 1-2 years of age and one adult to every six children for those children aged 2-3 years of age. Therefore, one additional adult was required to be present and caring for this number of children.
- Between the hours of 12.00md and 13.00pm, in the upstairs room, six preschool children were in attendance being cared for by one adult. There were an additional five school aged children in the room. The required ratio of adults to children for this age group is one adult to every eight children attending a full day care. The required ratio for school age children is one adult to every twelve children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a written response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

- The Staff Rota in the service was altered to increase staff presence to ensure that during periods of the day the adult child ratio is always correct. I will revise the age of the children every 3 months within the service to ensure the staff within the service are in the correct allocated playroom and age group. This will ensure the adult/child ratio is always maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection

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;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Attendance of preschool children were being recorded in individual books in each room. These logs recorded the times of arrival and collection for all children.
- (i) A roster book was in place which evidenced the predicted roster for the week and record of any amendments.
- (k) The registered provider had records of all accidents and incidents occurring within the service and evidence of a completed risk assessment to minimise the chances of reoccurrence.
- (3)
- The registered provider ensured these documents were available for inspection by the authorised person.
- (4)
- The registered provider had ensured that the records referred to in paragraph (1) were made available to the parent or guardian as required as evidenced by the parent's signature on accident and incident records.

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

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

Physical and Material Environment:

Three rooms were open on the day of inspection, junior and senior preschool and the upstairs room. All rooms were well equipped with resources and materials suitable to the age and stage of the children attending these rooms. Opportunities for imaginary and role play were provided in the home corner and dress up area as well as construction area and farm animal areas. Fine motor development was supported using jigsaws, pins and threading puzzles. Arts and crafts provided opportunities for children to express their creativity. In junior preschool a library equipped with age-appropriate books enhanced language development. All materials were stored on open shelving, ensuring they were accessible to the children throughout the day.

The outdoor play area provided an alternative change of environment for the children. The outdoor area provided two different outdoor areas with various resources suitable to the age and stage of the child. These included tunnels, tyres, slides, swings, mud kitchens and playhouses. Large wooden climbing frames and a variety of ride on toys, bikes and trikes allowed for gross motor skill development. At the bottom of the play area there was, a chicken coup that housed the services pets, providing educational opportunities for the preschool children.

Basic Needs:

The sleep needs of the younger children were met, this was observed on the day by children sleeping at a structured time of 12.45 to 14.00. One sleep room was in use in the service and cots were assigned to individual children. Sleep was monitored by physical checks from staff a minimum of every ten minutes.

Nappy changing was observed and positive engagement and interaction with the children were observed throughout this process. The older children who were toileting independently were prompted to do so and supervised from a distance.

A main hot meal was provided by the service and snacks were provided from home to include yoghurts, sandwiches, variety of fruits and crackers.

Supporting Relationships:

Children were observed to be happy in the service. The children moved around the rooms freely, directing their own sense of play. Interactions between staff and children were observed to be respectful and kind. In the preschool junior room children were held and cuddled as required. In the senior preschool room, the staff members managed challenging behaviour well using distracting techniques and de-escalation skills.

Communication with parents was completed daily morning and evening, where important information was exchanged. The staff appeared to have a good knowledge of the children and their needs and informed the inspector that parents would communicate any issues with their child through the manager of the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that there was adequate and suitable food and drink available to the preschool children. All snacks were provided from home and a hot meal was provided by an external catering company. On the day the hot meal provided was Savory mince, rice and peas. Snacks observed on the day included sandwiches, yoghurts, crackers cheese and fruit.

Drinks of milk and water were provided throughout the day.

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:

- On the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service the entrance doors were found to be secure. A bell entry system was in operation and staff members facilitated adults to leave thus ensuring doors were locked after leaving reducing the risk of unauthorised entry.
- The perimeter of the service was secure by a mix of high-level green wire fencing and a block wall.
- All windows had restrictors in place to reduce the risk of falls or accidents.
- All flexes and leads were secured to the wall as required.

Infection Control:

- The service was visibly clean and well maintained.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables after messy play and prior to mealtimes.
- The nappy changing area was cleaned after each use and staff members wore disposable gloves when handling food and these were changed as required.
- All waste bins throughout the service were foot pedal operated reducing cross infection.
- Resources in the service were clean and well maintained.
- The service had a policy in place for managing mouthed toys and these toys were removed and cleaned daily.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.

Administration of Medication:

- On interview staff members appeared knowledgeable about the process for medication administration if any preschool child required medication.

Safe Sleep:

- Three standard cots with waterproof mattresses were provided.
- The sleep room temperature was recorded at 19.3°C, which is in the recommended safe sleep temperatures.
- An air conditioning unit was provided in the sleep room to be used to reduce air temperatures in hot weather.

- Ten-minute sleep checks were recorded to include the room temperature, position, breathing and colour of child.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exit doors remained free from obstruction.
- The fire evacuation plan was displayed clearly in the care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for 11 staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'
2. The service had a large pet goose in the service who was observed to be pecking at the children through an unmeshed slatted fence. Children were observed to be running up to the fence placing their foot or hand in front of the goose who proceeded to attempt to peck at the children and the children ran away. A peck from the goose could injure the child.

Infection Control:

3. Children's hands were not washed after nappy changes of children in the junior preschool room. It was also observed that the older children in senior preschool did not wash their hands after playing in the outdoor area.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted a written response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting has been obtained Every effort will be made to ensure that all staff are re vetted before the 3-year period lapses. This has been highlighted in the head office and provisions are now in place.
2. The Goose has been rehomed. A decision was reached prior to the inspection to rehome our Goose as he had grown larger than anticipated. There will be a risk assessment for any new small animals that we may potentially consider purchasing for the children.

Infection Control:

3. Staff have been retrained at a staff team meeting on the importance of handwashing. A new notice to serve as reminder to wash hands after nappy change has been placed in the Nappy Change Facility. Staff and Children are aware of the importance of handwashing following outdoor play.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Documentary evidence submitted.
2. Documentary evidence submitted.

Infection Control:

3. Documentary evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider adequately addressed the non-compliance found on inspection