

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022LM002		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Eivers Lane Childcare CLG		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Credit Union Building, Convent Lane, Mohill, Co Leitrim		
<b>Eircode:</b>	N41 X0H2		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Padraig Mcweeeney		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/05/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Costello		
<b>Title:</b>	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

## Description of service

Eivers Lane Childcare Centre provides a sessional service from 09.00 to 12.00 five days per week. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 children. The service is operated from a hall in the credit union building in the town of Mohill Co. Leitrim. Eivers Lane Pre-school is located within close proximity of Eivers Lane Childcare Centre (Full day care).

## Staffing

There are three adults employed in the service. All three adults have completed the equivalent of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. An additional adult is employed through a community employment 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11, 15, 21, 23, 25, 26 and 28. 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

(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) (b)

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

(c)

The registered provider ensured that there is a clear management structure in place in the service and all adults are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

(2) (a) (b)

The records of all four adults employed in the service were reviewed.

Eight written and verified past employer references were available in respect of all four adults employed in the service.

(c)

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

(d)

International police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.

(3)

The registered provider had ensured that all necessary checks had been completed prior to an adult commencing work with a preschool child.

(4)

Three adults had attained major awards in Early childhood care and education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

### 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)  
There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the preschool service. There were two adults working directly with nine children in the morning of the unannounced inspection in the sessional service.

(3)  
On review of attendance, the registered provider had ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children ratio were provided on the day of the inspection and previously in accordance with the required ratio considering the ages of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service.

### 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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
- (c) an authorised person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

### Compliance Information

(1) (a-i)

Nine records of the children attending the service were reviewed. The required information including the authorisation to collect the child, details of illness or special needs of the child, emergency contact and record of immunisations were fully completed for each child.

(3) (c)

These records were made available on the day for review by the authorised person.

(4)

The person in charge acting on behalf of the registered provider was aware of the retention requirements set out in regulation of these records and confirmed that these records would be maintained for a period of two years.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

### Compliance Information

The care room consists of an open plan area set up with defined interest areas. Four child sized tables with sufficient chairs for the number of children attending the service are located on one side room, these are used for tabletop activities, artwork, and snack times. Sufficient materials and resources for these activities are in open level accessible shelving near the tables and chairs. Two sensory tables are provided in this area providing opportunities for exploration with sand and water play.

The opposite side of the room is structured with clearly defined interest areas. A home corner equipped with kitchen, washing machine, toy phone, dolls corner with prams, beds and changing unit allow for imaginative and role play. A construction area with cars, trucks, train tracks and building blocks provide opportunities for imaginative play and development of fine motor skills. A library area is equipped with a variety of books to support language development. Arts and crafts provide opportunities for creativity.

The outdoor area located to the rear of the property is equipped with toys and resources to develop gross motor skills. Ride on toys, balance bikes and tractors. Foot balls and a basketball net allows the children to learn about team sports and the importance of turn taking. A black board fixed to the wall gives the children an opportunity for creativity and self-expression. All materials and resources are age and stage appropriate to the preschool child. A cleaning schedule ensures that all materials and equipment are cleaned and well maintained as observed on 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:

- The main door to the building was found to be secure on the inspectors unannounced visit to the service.
- The outdoor area was located at the rear of the building and secured by high fencing and a locked metal gate.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the preschool child.
- Window restrictors were in place in all windows accessible to the preschool child.
- Foot operated waste bins were available throughout the service.

##### Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were available for safe hand hygiene practices.
- Children were observed to wash their hands prior to snack time and after coming in from outside or using the toilet.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned after snack time.

### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day, however on interview staff were knowledgeable of the service practice in relation to medication administration.

### Safe Sleep:

- Soft furnishings including two child sized couches were available to children to rest if required throughout the sessional service.

### Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were free from clutter. Appropriate emergency evacuation signage was displayed throughout the service.

## 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) On the day of inspection one staff member on duty was trained in first aider response (FAR) training and were immediately available to children attending the preschool service.

(2) (a) (b).

A fully stocked first aid box was available in the care room and available as required. A smaller first aid box was brought to the outdoor area when in use.

### 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) (b)

The registered provider ensured that emergency fire evacuation drills take place monthly the most recent on the 26th of April 2024. A list of all firefighting equipment and detection systems were available for review with the most recent annual service date of the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2023.

(2) (c)

All required records were made available on the day to the authorised person.

(3)

The person in charge acting on behalf of the registered provider is aware of the record retention requirements set out in regulation of a period of 5 years from creation.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures are clearly displayed within the care room.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider supplied evidence of adequate insurance for 22 preschool children attending a sessional service up until the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.