

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2022LM002

Name of Service: Eivers Lane Childcare CLG

Address of Service: Credit Union Convent Lane
Mohill
Leitrim,
N41 X0H2

Email Address: manager@eiverslane.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Padraic McWeeney

Type of Service Registered: **Sessional**

Date of Inspection: 2 1 0 9 2 0 2 2

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: **AM** 5 **PM** -

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Services,
Markievicz House,
Barrack St,
Sligo.
F91 XC84

Inspection undertaken by: S Mc Kenna & J O' Byrne
Title: Early Years Inspectors

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).

Conditions If Applicable Not applicable

Description of Service	<p>Eivers Lane Childcare CLG is a community-based sessional pre-school service situated in the town of Mohill, in county Leitrim. The service caters for a maximum of 22 children aged 2½ to 6 years, during the hours of 9.30am - 12.30pm for 38 weeks per year. Two other registered pre-school services that are operated by the same local voluntary committee are also located in the town of Mohill, within close proximity to this sessional service.</p>
Premises	<p>The service operates from the ground floor of a commercial building in the town of Mohill. The premises has been purpose-adapted for the provision of a pre-school service. It consists of an entrance lobby, a playroom, a separate kitchen area, adult and children’s toilet facilities and a store. An enclosed outdoor play area is available on-site and is located to the rear of the pre-school premises.</p>
Staffing	<p>There are a total of three adults employed to work directly with the children within the sessional preschool service, which includes a person employed on the Access and Inclusion model. The registered provider does not work in the service.</p> <p>All staff hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) between minimum Level 5 to Level 9 in Early Childhood Care and Education.</p>
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>The inspection was an announced Focused Inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under two themes; Governance, and the Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.</p>

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	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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff 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—
- (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 service had a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection. A sample of attendance records reviewed found that the designated person in charge or deputy was available at all times when the service was in operation.
- (2)
- Of the three staff files reviewed the following were available:
- (a) Two written validated references from a past employer in particular the most recent employer for three adults.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

	<p>(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for three adults.</p> <p>(d) International police vetting was available for the two adults who had resided outside of the State for a period greater than six months as an adult.</p> <p>(4) Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5, Level 6 and Level 9 on the National Qualifications Framework was available for three adults.</p>
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing Levels

<p>(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.</p> <p>(2) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of <u>a sessional pre-school service</u> 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.</p>	
Compliance Information:	<p>(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children during the inspection.</p> <p>(2) There were five children in total attending the service being cared for by two adults. The children in attendance on the day of inspection were aged between 3 years 9 months to 4 years 9 months. The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection.</p>

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF 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

Compliance Information:

BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the preschool service. The food for snack time is taken in from home on a daily basis by the children and stored in a refrigerator until snack time. The snacks on the day of inspection consisted of sandwiches, crackers and a variety of fresh fruit. A drinking station was set up within the preschool room where children could access a drink of water throughout the preschool session. The staff were observed to sit with the children at snack time and to engage in conversations with the children.
- The children were encouraged to use the toilet by themselves with help provided by the adults if needed. Spare sets of clothes for the children were stored in the service and used as needed.
- A rest area of soft wipeable child sized sofas were available to the children should they wish to rest during the preschool session.
- The children were observed to be consistently engaged in activities throughout the inspection, with water play and play dough observed to be the popular choices of activities on the day of inspection.
- The adults demonstrated a positive attitude towards the children and each other throughout their daily routine. The adults were observed to be softly spoken and got down to the child's level when communicating and interacting with them.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The adults were observed to engage with the children while in the indoor and outdoor play areas, helping when and where needed and were observed to engage in a game of football and sand play in the outdoor area.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- There was a keyworker system in place, where the adults work together to compile individual observations and creative work for each child.
- The children were observed to be familiar with the routine in the preschool session.
- Communication with parents is predominantly verbal, with conversations with parents upon arrival and collection of children on a daily basis. Phone and email are also used as forms of communication with parents for any service updates or reminders.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The tables and chairs were suitable for the age of the children using the preschool service.
- The materials and resources available for children's use were provided on low level shelving and easily accessible to the children.
- The play room was bright, spacious and inviting. There were several murals painted on the windows and walls alongside a birthday chart, children's handprints and a photograph display of the buildings within the local village.
- The indoor preschool room was laid out in a variety of designated play areas. Table top areas facilitated many fine motor activities such as jigsaws, threading and creative activities. A well-resourced home and shop area, dolls and prams, a book area and a painting easel was also available. Various small world and floor play opportunities were set up within the preschool room.
- The outdoor play area was an enclosed tarmac area to the rear of the premises. The children and adults accessed this area by walking up a short public pathway to the rear of the building. The outdoor area had a wooden play kitchen, ride on toys, a sand pit, balls and a plastic play house for the children's use.

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 to the premises was secure upon the inspector's arrival and remained locked throughout the inspection, ensuring no unauthorised access by others and no child could leave the premises unsupervised. The inspectors rang the doorbell for the attention of the staff and were permitted into the building by staff and requested to sign in. The entrance door is fitted with a push to release button which is placed at adult height, therefore ensuring no child could leave the building unsupervised through the main entrance door.
- The outdoor area was enclosed by metal fencing, wooden fencing and concrete walls. When the children used this outdoor area a locking mechanism was fitted to the external gate by the staff, in order to prevent unauthorised access or unsupervised exit from the outdoor play area.
- The adults supervised the children appropriately at all times throughout the preschool session.
- The toys and play equipment provided for the children were in good condition and appropriate for the age and developmental stages of the children in attendance.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children in the service.
- Risk assessments are carried out on an ongoing basis and were up to date with recent records available for inspection.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Handwashing was observed after the children used the toilet, after messy play and before their snack time.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins were provided in the children's sanitary facilities.
- The preschool room was maintained in a clean and hygienic manner, with detailed cleaning schedules in place and up to date.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:

- A book to record medication administered to children is available in the preschool service, with no entries recorded to date. A care plan was available for review for a child who may require a particular medication during their hours of attendance, this medication has not yet been required to be administered in this preschool term.

FIRE SAFETY:

- Fire exits were kept clear from obstruction at all times throughout the inspection.

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)

A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on 07 September 2022.

(b)

There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced in August 2022.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the preschool service.