

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023CE001
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Name of Service:	Laura's Childcare
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Address of Service:	Ballynacally National School, Knocksaggart, Ballynacally, Co. Clare
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Eircode:	V95 DE48
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Corbett
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	16 October 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Station Road Primary Care Centre, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare
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Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ní Nialláin
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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 sessional service is in a classroom in Ballynacally primary school. It is registered for up to a maximum of 11 pre-school children, between the ages of 2 and 6 years of age. The service is open from 09.30 to 12.30 hours Monday to Friday

Staffing

The service accommodation comprised of one playroom, children's and adult sanitary facilities and an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. Parking for drop off and collection of children is to the side of the national school.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 19. These findings are outlined 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.

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, the student, 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.*

(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) On the day of the inspection, the registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider and a student were present on the premises.

(2)(a) Three written references from past employers were available for one adult and one student.

(b) The second reference for the student was from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda

Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for the registered provider, the student and the emergency relief person for the service.

(d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the state for a period greater than six months.

(4) The registered provider who was working in the service held an appropriate qualification 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) therefore 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 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) On the day of Inspection there was one adult and one student working with six pre-school children. The adult/child ratio in the service was correct.
- (3) The written staff roster showed that the registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the service.
- (8) (c) The service was not operated single-handedly, as two adults were available in the service.

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

Basic Needs of the Children

- There was a healthy eating policy in the service. The parents supplied all the snacks and drinks for their child. Children had access to their own drink throughout the session.
- Personal care including nappy changing was carried out as required in a hygienic manner.
- Hand washing was observed with the children and by the adults.
- The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the playroom and they also had the use of a safely enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the national school.
- Rest facilities on cushions were available in a corner should the children need to relax or rest.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive manner and explanations and encouragement of appropriate behaviour was offered by the staff throughout the inspection.

Physical & Material Environment

- The indoor environment was comfortable, welcoming, and safe and provided a good range of developmentally appropriate and challenging experiences for the children. Suitable seating was provided for the children and the adults.
- The play materials and equipment were freely available and accessible to the children on low level shelving. Educational posters, family photos and children's creations were wall mounted and displayed at children's eye level and in work journals.
- Play equipment and materials were grouped to provide specific interest areas and appealing places for children to play and explore. Some of these included a home corner, a construction area, a library area with a soft seating area adjacent for relaxation, a dress-up area, a jig-saw area and a painting and arts and crafts area, a dolls house with small figures and other accessories.

- An outdoor play area was provided to the rear of the national school. It consisted of a fenced enclosed play environment with a tarmacadam ground surface. The outdoor area had various transport vehicles, sand and bubble water play, a slide, hoops and a wooden kitchen. The children played outdoors during the inspection.

Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- The children were supported to interact appropriately with their peers and were comfortable in their environment.
- The adults were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them, and responded to their questions. The adults interacted in a positive way with the children, they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact, showed empathy and a good understanding of each child, and were observed to be caring and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- Parents were provided with information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests, preferences and play activities engaged in on a daily basis.