

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023GY004
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Name of Service:	The Orchard Creche
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Address of Service:	Corofin, Tuam, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H51 XY13
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Name of Registered Provider:	Phyllis Reddington
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	01/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	71	PM	49
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Kelly and S. Meehan.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors.

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 service operates a full day care early year's service for children aged from 5 months to 12 years. A service for school aged children is also provided. The service operates from 7.30 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday. This service is located in a rural area near the village of Corofin in the Co. Galway. The service has 3 acres of outdoor space located to the side, front and rear of the premises. This service has 6 early years playrooms, 2 designated sleep rooms, staff room and a kitchen area.

Staffing

There were 14 adults present on the day of inspection ,which included the registered provider and the service managers.

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 may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 11, and 19, however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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, persons 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*

(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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named persons who were able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises and facilitated the inspection. It was confirmed that there were 19 members of staff working in the service, which included the registered provider, childcare staff and 2 students on work placement.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 30 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 8 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 3 adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 18 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not available for 2 adults working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff have made applications for the police vetting disclosures and in future all staff will have all vetting in place prior to commencing employment.

04/03/2024.

The registered provider submitted copies of the outstanding police vetting for the 2 staff member, which was reviewed and accepted by the early years inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The regulation is compliant, as the registered provider provided adequate assurances that the non-compliance were rectified.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (2) On the morning of inspection, there were 13 adults caring for the 71 pre-school children attending the morning session.
At 14.00pm on the day of inspection, there were 13 adults caring for the 49 pre-school children attending in afternoon.

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

- Parents provided all the snacks and the service provides the main meals for the children. On the day of inspection. The staff had introduced a rolling lunch table in the playroom for children over the age of 3 years of age. A table was set with a tablecloth, a vase of flowers and a battery-operated candle. The children get an opportunity to eat their lunch when they were hungry and not at a set allocated time. The children were observed coming and going from this dining area at various times during the morning session. The staff members observed and encouraged the children to eat their lunch during the session. The staff members sat with the younger children while they ate their lunches.
- Children wash their hands before snack time and after outdoor play.
- Children were independent with their toileting needs. They were able to use the sanitary area that was adjacent to the playrooms or just down the corridors from their playrooms.
- There were a range of soft seating in all of the playrooms, for the children to sit and relax. Children in the playroom at the front of the building had access to the raised seating area, children were observed using this area after they had finished their lunch and were able to watch the older children in the play area.
- Staff provided for each child need to sleep rest and relaxation. Staff allow younger children to sleep and rest when they were tired and not just at designated times. Stackable beds were used for the over twos, to sleep and relax, a playroom was converted into a sleep room for children over 2's that required sleep.
- All of the children regardless of their age had daily access to the outdoor play areas. The older children got an opportunity to play with their own group and a number of times a week, the playschool groups played together in the play area at the front of the building. Sibling, cousins and friends attending different rooms got a chance to meet and play together.
- The atmosphere between the children and the staff remained calm and relaxed throughout the inspection. Younger children in the playroom were observed randomly crawling and walking up to staff members for extra reassurances and hugs. Staff in this playroom spend a large amount of time sitting on the floor playing with the children. Staff were observed constantly talking, sharing information and positively engaging with one another during the inspection.

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