

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023MH007		
Name of Service:	The Village Pre-School & After-School		
Address of Service:	Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath		
Eircode:	A82 YE81		
Name of Registered Provider:	Celine Govern		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	21/02/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM 4
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath.		
Inspection undertaken by:	D. Murray		
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		

Description of service

The Village Pre-School & After-School provides a full day care, part-time, sessional service to children from 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 07:00am to 18:00pm each weekday and eligible children participate in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme. A school aged service is also provided.

The service is a renovated building on the grounds of Carnaross GAA pitch consisting of the following rooms:

Room 1 is the dining and food preparation area.

Room 2 is the indoor care room.

Room 3 is a partially sheltered outdoor care room. Other rooms in the service include staff and children's sanitary facilities.

An outdoor space is located to the front and side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a designated person in charge, 3 staff members and 1 staff member specifically to care for the school aged children. One childcare staff member was on leave. Present on the day of inspection were the designated person in charge and 2 staff members.

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 and the health, welfare and development of the child.

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.

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

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) Fourteen validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 7 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Six childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. One staff member provided care for the school aged children and therefore did not require a childcare qualification.

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

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed on the day of inspection:

There were 2 adults providing direct care to 7 children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 4 years 6 months. An additional staff member was available to assist with the inspection and to provide lunch cover.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

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

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child’s learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

Basic needs:

- The service provided all the snacks with the main hot meals provided by a catering company. On the day of inspection, the children had their morning snack at 10:30am with a choice of toast, ham sandwiches, cheese, yogurts and a variety of fruit. At 13:30pm the main meal was served which consisted of pizza with sweetcorn and potatoes cubes. At 3pm the children had sausage rolls with yogurts and fruit served before leaving for home. Water and milk were available throughout the day.
- The children had the freedom to move between the care room, outdoor room and outdoor space. Children were observed enjoying meaningful, sustained play with tabletop activities, art and crafts and free playing with lots of conversation and laughter observed. Staff supported children’s learning with activities that were observed to be fun and creative. The theme of the month was “Spring” along with the children’s emerging interest which a staff member stated was “Dinosaurs”.
- Children individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. Staff members were observed changing children’s nappies regularly and in a timely manner with warm one-to-one interactions during direct care. Older children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with children being given ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff spoke to all children in a positive way and listened attentively to each child. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones.
- At snack time children were observing sitting around tables in the dining area which created a positive atmosphere where children had the opportunity to interact and developing relationships.
- The service showed a positive regard towards the families of the children and family links were nurtured in the service with family photographs displayed on “The Family Wall” in the care room which gave a sense of identity and belonging. Parents were greeted at collection time with friendly conversation overheard. Overall, the children appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.