

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2023WW002
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Name of Service:	Teddy's Pre-school
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Address of Service:	155 Glebemount Wicklow Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A67 PK59
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Name of Registered Provider:	Adele Sinnott
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/02/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke
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

This privately owned sessional service is located in a single storey, purpose-built extension located at the side of the registered provider's private home. It consists of one large care room with separate sanitary facilities and an enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the premises. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 6 years of age. The hours of operation are from 09.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday and the service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There are two staff members currently employed in the pre-school and this includes the registered provider. There is also a relief staff member available if required.

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.

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 registered provider, second staff member 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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

A total of two full time staff are employed in the pre-school service and one relief staff member, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was present and a named person was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

The management structure within the service was clear as were the responsibilities of each adult.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of three adults.

(c)

Completed Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for three adults employed.

(d)

No international police vetting was required as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)

Three members of staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6A)

One adult was employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion model.

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)

Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3)

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were two adults present with eight children on the day of Inspection.

(8)(c)

There were two adults on the premises at all times. The registered provider does not operate the service single-handedly.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were asked what activity they wished to pursue, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the morning. The transition between one activity and the next was smooth and unhurried, aided by the language used by the adults to the children. One to one attention was given to a child if it was required and minor issues handled promptly and sensitively.

The classroom layout reflected specific areas of interests for the children. The cosy area in the pre-school room was well laid out and inviting should the children require a rest during their day.

The service operates a rolling snack time for children who require it and this was observed on the day of inspection. A different child each day is given the opportunity to hand out lunches to the class and a staff member supervised hand washing before they started eating. There was fresh drinking water available to the children throughout the morning. The snack time was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children as adults engaged with them helping when required. Children were addressed by their name and were given plenty of time to eat their food. All food was provided by the parents of the children attending the service. Children were supported to be independent with looking after their belonging, in the tidy up process and with using the toilet. All with adequate supervision.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The registered provider engages with local members of the community and invites them to come and speak with the children on different issues. On the day of inspection, a local Garda was invited to come and speak with the children on road safety and to see the inside of a Garda vehicle.

Childrens parents are spoken to on an individual basis at collection time.