Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Uimhir Aitheantais TUSLA:	TU2024GY004

Ainm na Seirbhíse:	Naíonra Leitir Móir

Seoladh na Seirbhíse:	Scoil Colmcille, Leitir Móir, Co. na Gaillimhe.

Eirchód:	H91 NT25

Ainm an tSoláthraí Chláraithe:	Pádraic Mac Aodh

Cineál na Seirbhíse	Páirtaimseartha

Dáta na Cigireachta:	15/01/2025

Líon na leanaí réamhscoile:	AM	4	PM	3

Seoladh na Cigireachta Luathbhlianta:	Tusla - An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, Cigireacht Luathbhlianta, An Stiúrthóireacht um Dhearbhú Cáilíochta, Foirgneamh Cliniciúil & Riaracháin, Bloc A- (An Chéad Chonair Urlár-Glas), Páirc Mhuirlinne, Co.na Gaillimhe.
Cigireacht arna déanamh ag:	F. Nic Dhonnacha
Teideal :	Cigire na Luathbhlianta

Údarás chun cigireacht a dhéanamh
Déanann Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla cigireacht ar Sheirbhísí Luathbhlianta faoi Alt 58(J) den Acht um Chúram Leanaí, 1991 (arna chur isteach le hAlt 92 den Acht fán nGníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach, 2013).

Coinníollacha, má bhaineann le hábhar	Not Applicable

Tuarascáil Rialála Chigireacht na Luathbhlianta Réamhscoil

Cur síos ar an tseirbhís

Tá an tseirbhís pháirtaimseartha phobal seo lonnaithe i mbunscoil Leitir Móir i gcroílár na Gaeltachta, in iarthar chontae na Gaillimhe. Tá bealach isteach féin ag an réamhscoil agus tá áiseanna na scoile in úsáid acu chomh maith. Feidhmíonn an tseirbhís seisiúnach ó 9.30 r. n go 12.30 r. n agus seirbhís pháirtaimseartha go dtí 14.30 i.n, ó Luan go hAoine 38 seachtain den bhliain. Cuireadh clár cúram réamhscoile agus cúram seisiúnach ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge i gCúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige (ECCE). Freastalaíonn an réamhscoil ar pháistí idir 2 agus 6 bliana d'aois. Tá rochtain ag an tseirbhís ar chlóis súgartha na scoile iniata agus ar an limistéar foscúil uile-aimsire ar chúl na scoile. Cuireann an tseirbhís curaclam ar fáil bunaithe ar shúgradh agus ar spéiseanna na bpáistí atá ag teacht chun cinn. Cuirtear limistéar ciúin ar fáil chun cabhrú le leanbh scíth a ligean nó gníomhaíochtaí a dhiúltiú má roghnaíonn sé nó sí. Bhí na limistéir súgartha lasmuigh ar chúl, ar an taobh agus ar aghaidh an áitribh slán.

Soláthar foirne

Is é an soláthraí cláraithe ná an cathaoirleach atá ar ghrúpa forbartha atá bunaithe sa phobal áitiúil. Tá duine ainmnithe i gceannas agus duine ainmnithe atá in ann ionadaíocht a dhéanamh. Bhí beirt bhall foirne ann seachas an soláthraí cláraithe. Tá Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann (QQI) ag leibhéal 5 ar a laghad, i gCúram agus Oideachas na Luath-Óige acu. Tá fianaise dhoiciméadach ag an bhfoireann ar oiliúint agus oideachas leanúnach.

Modheolaíocht

Is í Cigireacht na Luathbhlianta, Tusla, rialtóir reachtúil neamhspleách ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta in Éirinn. Sainmhínítear i Rialacháin an Achta um Chúram Leanaí 1991 (Seirbhísí Luathbhlianta) 2016 dualgas an tsoláthraí chláraithe sábháilteacht agus folláine leanaí a chinntiú agus cloí leis na riachtanais seo. Tugann an tAcht seo údarás do Tusla measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh leis na rialacháin. Is é is aidhm le rialáil maidir le seirbhísí óige ná a chinntiú go seastar le cúram, sábháilteacht, agus folláine na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar na seirbhísí seo. Pleanáiltear cigireachtaí ar sheirbhísí luathbhlianta bunaithe ar na pointí seo a leanas:

- Stair chigireachta na seirbhíse
- Eolas ar bith a fhaightear maidir leis an tseirbhís

- Tá torthaí na cigireachta bunaithe ar:
- Eolas a fhaightear trí dhoiciméid a imscrúdú
- Breathnú díreach
- Plé le baill foirne ábhartha

Ba chigireacht fógartha é seo, agus díríodh ar rialachas,sláinte, folláine agus forbairt an linbh agus sábháilteacht lena linn. Féadfaidh cigireacht díriú ar réimsí eile chomh maith, de réir mar is gá.

Ba é an plean cigireachta ná measúnú a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh faoi na rialacháin seo a leanas:

Rialachán 9 Bainistiú agus earcaíocht

Rialachán 11 Leibhéil foirne

Rialachán 19 Leas Sláinte agus Forbairt Leanaí

Rialachán 25 Garchabhair

Leagtar amach torthaí na cigireachta sa tuarascáil maidir leis an gcigireacht a eisítear mar dhréacht-tuarascáil ar dtús chuig an tseirbhís, agus bíonn deis ag an tseirbhís freagra a thabhairt ar thorthaí ar bith a luaitear inti. I gcás go sainaithnítear nach bhfuil ceanglais reachtúla á gcomhlíonadh, ní mór don soláthraí cláraithe léiriú a thabhairt ar an mbealach a réitíodh an neamhchomhlíonadh agus mar a chuirfear cosc ar an neamhchomhlíonadh amach anseo. Úsáidfear an plean um Ghníomh Ceartaitheach agus Gníomh Coisctheach (CAPA) chun bonn eolais a chur le cinntí maidir le comhlíonadh le ceanglais rialála. I gcás nach n-éiríonn leis an soláthraí cláraithe na ceanglais reachtúla a chomhlíonadh, féadfar próiseas géaraithe a thosú.

Forchoimeádann an Chigireacht an ceart chun eagarthóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagraí a fhaightear ar chúiseanna éagsúla lena n-áirítear soiléireacht; iomláine; agus chun próisis riaracháin agus dlíthiúla a chomhlíonadh.

Is í an Chigireacht a thiomsaíonn ábhar na tuarascála.

Buíochas

Is mian leis an gcigire buíochas a ghabháil leis an duine i bhfeighil, leis an duine breise agus leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair ar lá na cigireachta as a gcomhoibriú ar fad.

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 9 – Bainistíocht agus earcaíocht
(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe- *(a) go mbeidh sa tseirbhís duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe agus duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú a bheidh ábalta gníomhú mar ionadaí de réir mar is gá,* *(b) go mbeidh an duine i bhfeighil ainmnithe nó an duine arna ainmniú nó arna hainmniú dá dtagraítear i bhfomhír (a) san áitreabh gach tráth le linn na tréimhse ina mbeidh an tseirbhís réamhscoile á seoladh, agus*
(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe gur duine oiriúnach inniúil gach fostaí, gach oibrí nach n-íoctar agus gach conraitheoir, agus cineál na riachtanas a bhíonn ar leanaí á chur san áireamh, lena n-áirítear trí na nithe seo a leanas a dhéanamh– *(a) breithniú ar theistiméireacht ó fhostóirí an duine san am a caitheadh, más ann, agus go háirithe ar theistiméireacht ón bhfostóir is déanaí, más ann,* *(b) breithniú ar theistiméireachtaí ó fhoinsí iontaofa i gcás duine nach raibh aon fhostóirí air nó uirthi san am a caitheadh,* *(c) breithniú ar an nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin a fuarthas ó Bhiúró Náisiúnta Grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána de réir Acht 2012 i leith an duine, agus* *d) a chinntiú, a mhéid is indéanta, go soláthróidh duine, i gcás go raibh cónaí ar an duine i stát seachas an Stát ar feadh tréimhse ab fhaide ná 6 mhí as a chéile, grinnfhiosrúchán ag póilíní ó na húdaráis phóilíneachta sa stát sin.*
(4) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (2) agus faoi réir mhíreanna (5) agus (6), go sealbhaíonn gach fostaí a bhíonn ag obair go díreach le leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís, mórdhámhachtain i gCúram agus Oideachas Luath-Óige ar Leibhéal 5 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasfaidh an tAire a bheith coibhéiseach léi sin, ar a laghad.
(7) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go ndéanfar maoirseacht chuí ar gach fostaí, gach oibrí nach n-íoctar agus gach conraitheoir agus go soláthrófar dó nó di faisnéis chuí, agus más gá oiliúint riachtanach, lena n-áirítear i ndáil leis na nithe seo a leanas: *(a) beartais, nósanna imeachta agus ráitis na seirbhíse a shonraítear i Sceideal 5;*

Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1)(a) Ba é an bainisteoir an duine a bhí i gceannas agus bhí duine ar fáil le teacht isteach nuair a bhí siad as láthair. (b) Bhí an bainisteoir agus ball foirne breise ar fáil le linn na cigireachta. Bhí trí chomhad foirne ar fáil agus rinne an cigire athbhreithniú orthu. Áiríodh iad seo a leanas leis na torthaí: (2)(a) Bhí cheithre thagairt as sé thagairt ar fáil uaidh iarfhostóir. Bhí na tagairtí ar fad deimhnithe. (b) Bhí dhá thagairt as sé thagairt ar fáil ó fhoinse chreidiúnach. Bhí na tagairtí ar fad deimhnithe. (c) Fuarthas nochtadh grinnfhiosrúcháin an Gharda Síochána don triúr ball foirne. Léirigh an tseirbhís freisin comhlíonadh an Fhógra Rialála Cigireachta Luathbhlianta a éilíonn ar sheirbhísí grinnfhiosrúchán an Gharda Síochána a athnuachan gach trí bliana. (d) Ní raibh gá le grinnfhiosrúchán idirnáisiúnta na bpóilíní do na daoine fásta a bhí ag obair sa tseirbhís a bhí ina gcónaí i stát eile ar feadh tréimhse níos faide ná sé mhí. (4) Bhí cáilíochtaí Cúraim agus Oideachais Luath-Óige ag beirt aosach a bhí ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí, ó Leibhéal 5 go Leibhéal 8 ar an gCreat Náisiúnta Cáilíochtaí nó cáilíocht a mheasann an tAire a bheith comhionann. (7)(a) Rinne an cigire athbhreithniú ar shampla de bheartais, nósanna imeachta agus ráitis na seirbhíse a shonraítear i Sceideal 5. I measc na mbeartas agus na nósanna imeachta a ndearna an cigire athbhreithniú orthu bhí: • Polasaí maidir le Timpistí agus Eachtraí • Beartas Cuimsithe • Polasaí Earcaíochta • Polasaí maidir le Bainistíocht Iompair • Polasaí maidir le Codladh Sábháilte • Beartas maidir le Rialú Ionfhabhtaithe • Beartas maoirseachta

Cuid III – Bainistíocht agus Foireann
Rialachán 11 - Leibhéil Foirne
(1) Faoi réir an Rialacháin seo, cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh gach tráth líon leordhóthanach de dhaoine fásta ag obair go díreach leis na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile. *(2) Faoi réir mhíreanna (4) agus (5), cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhíse cúraim lae iomláine nó seirbhíse cúraim lae páirtaimseartha go gcomhlíonfar gach tráth an cóimheas íosta idir daoine fásta agus leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (3) de Chuid 1 de Sceideal 6 os coinne uimhir thagartha áirithe a shonraítear i gcolún (1) den Chuid sin i leith raon aoise na leanaí a shonraítear i gcolún (2) den Chuid sin ag an uimhir thagartha sin sásta sin.* *(8) Gan dochar do mhíreanna (2) go (7)-* *(a) cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe seirbhísí réamhscoile seachas seirbhís feighlíochta leanaí nó seirbhís réamhscoile seisiúnach go bhfuil 2 dhuine fásta ar a laghad san áitreabh i gcónaí,*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1) D'oibrigh líon leordhóthanach daoine fásta go díreach leis na leanaí a bhí i láthair. (2) Thug an bainisteoir aire do cheathrar páistí ar maidin agus thug an bainisteoir agus ball foirne breise aire do thriúr páistí tráthnóna. (8)(a) Léirigh an uainchlár nó leabhar rolla na baill foirne go raibh beirt daoine fásta ar fáil sa tseirbhís i gcónaí.

Cuid V - Cúram Linbh i Seirbhís Réamhscoile
Rialachán 19 - Sláinte, leas agus forbairt linbh
(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe, le linn dó nó di a bheith ag soláthar seirbhís réamhscoile— *(a) go ndéanfar foghlaim, forbairt agus leas gach linbh a urasú laistigh de shaol laethúil na seirbhíse réamhscoile trí na gníomhaíochtaí cuí, an idirghníomhaíocht chuí, na hábhair chuí agus an trealamh cuí a sholáthar, ag féachaint d'aois agus do chéim forbartha an linbh, agus* *(b) go mbeidh cleachtais chúraim chuí oiriúnacha ar bun sa tseirbhís réamhscoile, ag féachaint don líon leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís agus do chineál a riachtanas.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1)(a)(b) **Riachtanais Bhunúsacha** • Shuigh gach páiste ag an mbord agus bhain siad taitneamh as a gcuid sneaiceanna agus a mbéile gan aon deifir. Bhí an t-atmaisféar le linn am béilí suaimhneach, le hidirghníomhú sóisialta taitneamhach i measc na bpáistí agus na daoine fásta.

- Bhí na huirlisí crógachta, sceanra agus cupáin a úsáideadh oiriúnach d'aoiseanna agus do chéim forbartha na bpáistí. Bhí crúiscín uisce ar fáil go heasca ar seilf íseal do na páistí le linn an tseisiúin.
- Bhí cuisneoir ar fáil sa seomra súgartha chun gach earra meatach ó bhoscaí lóin na bpáistí a stóráil go sábháilte.
- Cuireadh oiliúint leithris ar gach páiste. Bhí cead ag na páistí a gcuid ama a thógáil agus tugadh cúnamh dóibh má bhí sé ag teastáil agus iad i mbun leithris. Spreag agus thacaigh an fhoireann leo a bheith níos neamhspleáiche i gcleachtais leithris.
- Bhí neart deiseanna ag páistí bogadh timpeall sa timpeallacht laistigh agus lasmuigh, chun a gcuid scileanna atá ag teacht chun cinn a chleachtadh agus a fheabhsú.

Ag Tacú le Caidrimh

- D'úsáid an fhoireann toin bhoga, agus iad ag caint leis na páistí, d'úsáid siad ainm aonair an pháiste, agus chuaigh siad síos go dtí a leibhéal agus iad ag déanamh teagmháil súl leo an t am ar fad.
- Taispeánadh áiseanna amhairc (meabhrúcháin pictiúr agus focal) agus treoracha sa seomra ranga agus úsáideadh iad leis na páistí chun tacú lena gcuid foghlama. Bhí an t-atmaisféar sa timpeallacht foghlama spreagúil agus místuama.
- Chuir an tseirbhís eolas laethúil ar fáil do thuismitheoirí agus do chaomhnóirí. Eolas faoi imeachtaí nó gníomhaíochtaí suntasacha a bhaineann lena leanbh. Déantar cumarsáid ó bhéal ag amanna teacht agus bailithe, trí ghlaonna gutháin agus eagraíonn an fhoireann cruinnithe lena tuismitheoirí agus caomhnóirí athbhreithnithe ráithiúla maidir le forbairt agus dul chun cinn na bpáistí. Déantar plé ar láidreachtaí, laigeachtaí, spéiseanna agus riachtanais chúraim forbartha an pháiste.
- Chuir an fhoireann leabhar próifíle le chéile do gach páiste, ag taispeáint 'turas an pháiste' ag baint úsáide as breathnóireachtaí agus samplaí d'obair agus de théamaí linbh san áireamh.
- Tugadh faoi deara na páistí ag saor imirt, ag baint taitneamh as am scéalaíochta, ag gníomhaíochtaí boird, ag sórtáil agus ag úsáid a gcuid samhlaíochta.
- Sna ceantair lasmuigh, bhí na páistí le feiceáil ar na sleamhnáin, ar na gluaisteáin tuairteora, ag spraoi le liathróid imeartha agus ag leanacht boilgeoga, bhí siad ag imirt cluichí gníomhaíochta leis an bhfoireann.
- D'éist an fhoireann le páistí ar bhealach comhbhách, séimh nuair a léirigh siad mothúcháin, agus chuir siad ar a suaimhneas iad go mbíonn gnáth mhothúcháin dhearfacha agus dhiúltacha acu uaireanta.
- D'úsáid an fhoireann straitéisí dhearfacha chun tacú le cuimsiú leanaí. Mar shampla, thug an cigire faoi deara gur aithin an fhoireann rannpháirtíocht an pháiste i ngníomhaíocht , luaigh siad focala deasa 'ta sé

sin iontach' 'déanta go maith' agus d'úsáid siad ceisteanna ar nós 'cad ba cheart dúinn a dhéanamh ina dhiaidh seo?', 'an bhfuil aon bhealach eile ann chun é seo a dhéanamh?', chun deis a thabhairt do pháistí smaoineamh agus iniúchadh criticiúil a dhéanamh iad fhéin.

- Thacaigh an fhoireann le leanaí dul isteach i ngrúpaí sóisialta, agus foghlaim chun cabhrú le leanaí eile agus teagmháil dhearfach a dhéanamh leo. Spreag siad agus mhol siad na páistí as iompar sainiúil, dearfach agus cuí.

Timpeallacht Fhisiciúil agus Ábhartha

- Bhí an seomra súgartha geal agus ildaite agus sain-réimsí spéise ann do na páistí le bheith ag súgradh. Bhí éagsúlacht bréagán agus ábhar súgartha ar fáil go héasca ag leibhéal na bpáistí. I measc na n-earraí bhí cúinne baile, siopa, naíonáin agus limistéar pramanna, leabharlann le neart leabhair eagsúla, ról imirt agus limistéar gléasta suas le scáthán. Limistéar ealaíon agus ceardaíochta, limistéar uisce/ báisín gainimh agus bréagáin bheaga dhomhanda, limistéar tógála, puzail, míreanna mearaí, nascóirí, tuí, iallacha, bloic agus go neart eile.
- Bhí gach bosca bréagán ainmnithe go soiléir agus taispeántais amhairc le feiceáil ar fud an tseomra.
- Bhí taispeántais amhairc le feiceáil ar na ballaí at fad le saothar ealaíne na bpaistí, téamaí, grianghraifeanna na teaghlaigh, laethanta na seachtaine, séasúir, cuntóir an lae agus an plean laethúil sa naíonra.

An limistéar súgartha lasmuigh

- Bhí rogha de 3 láthair súgartha, ar aghaidh na scoile, ar thaobh na scoile agus ar chúl na scoile agus an ceantar ar chúl na scoile bhí áit foscúil uile-aimsire curtha leis.
- Bhí na limistéir taobh amuigh clúdaithe le tarmacadam os comhair an áitreabh agus ar chúl, dromchla féar ag taobh an áitreabh agus bhí cosáin coincréite ann. Bhí na háiteanna daingnithe ag ballaí teorann, fálú agus geataí.
- Bhí sliotáin ama tugtha ag na páistí le bheith ag súgradh sa cheantar lasmuigh nuair nach raibh na páistí scoile ann.
- Bhí deis ag na páistí imirt ar shleamhnáin, peil a chiceáil, rith, taisteal ar charranna tuairteora, imirt leis an gcistin láibe nó cluichí léim a imirt ar an dhromchla a bhí péinteailte le h aghaidh cluichí aicsin os comhair an áitribh.

Cuid VI - Sábháilteacht
Rialachán 25 - Garchabhair
(1) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh duine atá oilte ar gharchabhair do leanaí ar fáil láithreach i gcónaí do na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoil. *(2) Cinnteoidh soláthraí cláraithe go mbeidh bosca garchabhrach do leanaí a bhfuil an trealamh cuí ann—* *(a) stóráilte go sábháilte in áit fheiceálach san áitreabh ar féidir teacht air gan dua, agus* *(b) ar fáil i gcónaí do na leanaí a fhreastalaíonn ar an tseirbhís réamhscoile.*
Faisnéis maidir le Comhlíonadh:
(1) Bhí oiliúint chuí ag beirt aosach a bhí ag obair sa tseirbhís sa fhreagróir garchabhrach agus bhí siad ar fáil do na leanaí ma bhí gá. (2) Bhí bosca garchabhair ar fáil a bhí oiriúnach agus feistithe sa seomra súgartha. (a) Stóráladh an bosca garchabhair go sábháilte in áit fheiceálach sa tseirbhís. (b) Bhí an bosca garchabhair ar fáil do na leanaí i gcónaí.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024GY004

Name of Service:	Naíonra Leitir Móir

Address of Service:	Scoil Colmcille, Leitir Móir, Co. Galway.

Eircode:	H91 NT25

Name of Registered Provider:	Pádraic Mac Aodh

Service type:	Part Time

Date of Inspection:	15/01/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	4	PM	3

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	TUSLA - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F Nic Dhonnacha
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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report
Pre School

Description of service

This community-based part time service is situated in Lettermore primary school in the heart of the Gaeltacht, west county Galway. The pre-school has its own entrance and has the use of the school facilities. The service operates a sessional service from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and a part time service until 2.30 pm, from Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care pre-school programme were offered through the medium of Irish. The pre-school caters for children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service has access to the enclosed school playgrounds and all weather sheltered area to the rear of the school. The service provides a curriculum based on play and the children's emerging interests. A quiet rest area is provided to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chooses to. The outdoor play areas were secure to the rear, side and front of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson of the local community-based development group. The registered provider is not onsite daily. There is a designated person in charge and a named person who can deputise. There were two staff, excluding the registered provider. Two staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education.

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 the Child and Safety.

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 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* *(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.* *(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:* *(a)the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*
Compliance Information
(1)(a) The manager was the person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence. (b) The manager and one staff member were available throughout the inspection. (2) Three staff files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The files included the following: (a) Four of six references from past employers were available. All these references had a record of validation. (b) Two of six references were from a reputable source were available. All these references had a record of validation. (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff. The service also demonstrated compliance

with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required for the adults working in the service.

(4) Two adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(7)(a) A sample of the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5 were reviewed. The policies and procedures reviewed by the inspector included the following:

- Policy on Accidents and Incidents
- Inclusion Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Policy on Behaviour Management
- Policy on Safe Sleep
- Policy on Infection Control
- Supervision policy

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) An adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.

(2) One adult cared for four children in the morning. Two adults cared for three children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated that two adults were available in the service during operational hours.

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

(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

Basic Needs(1)(a)(b)

- Each child sat and enjoyed their snack and meal without being rushed. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development. A jug of water was accessible to the children on a low shelf throughout the session.
- A fridge was available in the playroom for the safe storage of all perishable items from the children's lunch boxes.
- All children present on the day of inspection were toilet trained. The children were allowed to take their time and assistance was given while toileting if required. The staff encouraged and supported them to become more independent in toileting practices.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move around in the indoor and outdoor environment, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.

Supporting Relationships

- The staff used soft tones while talking to the children, while using child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- Visual aids (picture and word reminders) and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning.
- The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried.
- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, at drop off and collection times, via phone calls and through meetings regarding the children's development and progress in the preschool.

The meetings allow the adults and parents to discuss the child's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and developmental care needs.

- The adults collated scrapbooks for each child attending the service, showing the 'child's journey' using observations and including samples of a child's work and themes.
- The children were observed to free play, at story time, at tabletop activities, playing with connecting toys and at imaginative play. In the outdoor areas, the children were observed on the slides, bumper cars, playing ball, chasing bubbles, running and playing activity games with the staff.
- The staff listened to children in a caring, gentle way when they expressed emotions and reassured them that it is normal to experience positive and negative emotions at times.
- The staff provided opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences.
- Staff used positive strategies to support children's inclusion. For example, the inspector noted that the staff acknowledged a child's engagement in an activity 'that is great', 'well done' and used questions such as 'what should we do next?', 'is there any other way to do this?', to allow children to critically think and explore.
- The staff supported children to enter social groups and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive and appropriate behaviours.

Physical and Material Environment

- The playroom was bright and colourful with defined interest areas for the children to play. There was a variety of toys and play materials readily available at the children's level.
- Items included a home corner, a shop, a babies and pram area, a library, costumes and dress up area with a mirror, an arts and crafts area, a water/sand basin area, small world toys, construction area, puzzles, jigsaws, connectors, straws, laces, blocks and many more.
- All boxes of toys were clearly labelled and visual displays evident all around the room.
- Visual displays were evident on the surrounding walls with the children's artwork, themes, family photographs, days of the week, seasons, the little helper chart and the daily plan of activities.

The outdoor play area

- There was a choice of three play areas in total, one to the front of the school, one to the side of the school and the area to the rear of the school with the addition of an all-weather sheltered area.
- The play area to the front and rear had a tarmacadam surface and concrete paths, while the area to the side of the premises had a grass surface. The areas were secure with boundary walls, fencing and gates.
- The children had allocated time slots for playing in the outdoor area.
- The children had the opportunity to play on slides, kick football, run, ride on bumper cars, play with the mud kitchen and jump on the hopscotch area to the front of the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) Two adults working in the service had appropriate training in first aid responder and were available to the children.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the playroom if required.

(a) The first aid box was stored safely in a conspicuous position in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available to children at all times.