

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024LK006				
Name of Service:	Dromtrasna Preschool				
Address of Service:	Dromtrasna National School, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick				
Eircode:	V94W5RC				
Name of Registered Provider:	Janette Quirke				
Service type:	sessional				
Day 1 of inspection	07/11/2024				
Date 2 of inspection:	08/11/2024				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>11</td> <td>PM</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>	AM	11	PM	0
AM	11	PM	0		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick				
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne				
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

Dromtrasna Preschool is a sessional preschool service that opened in September 2024 and it is located in the Dromtrasna National School in the townland of Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. The service operates from 9.10am to 12.10pm, Monday to Friday and is open for 38 weeks of the year. The service can accommodate a maximum of 22 preschool children at any one time. The school operates from a large, well-resourced preschool room. Suitable sanitary accommodation is located in the preschool room.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner of the service and she works in the service with a second staff each day. A named emergency person is available in the event of an emergency. The registered provider and the staff members have completed their studies and hold the relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care 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 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, staff and children who were present on the days 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 registered provider was present in the service on the day of the inspection. There was one staff present with the registered provider and a named person available to assist in an emergency if needed.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider and one staff member were present in the service and the staff roster indicated that these persons were available on the premises each day.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and roles and responsibilities of the registered provider and the staff members.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references were available for the registered provider and the two staff members.

(b) The references were from past employers and from other sources where required and these were on file.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the registered provider and the two staff members. The Garda vetting certificates were in date within the last three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for the staff members working in the service.

(4) The registered provider and the staff both held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 and 6.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at the service.
- (3) On the two days of the inspection there were 11 preschool children present with 2 adult. The adult child ratio was correct.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
 - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
 - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
 - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
 - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
 - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
 - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registration forms completed by parents for each child attending the service were reviewed. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept in respect of each preschool child attending the service and contained all the required particulars

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:

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and parents were advised to provide children with nutritious snacks each day for break time. Sandwiches, fruits, crackers, cheese strings, pasta snacks were observed in children's lunches on the day of inspection. All perishable foods were appropriately stored in a refrigerator each morning until required at break time.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the preschool room. Hot water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were available for handwashing. The children could be easily supervised while independently accessing the bathroom facilities. A wash hand basin was also accessible in the preschool room. Nappy changing facilities were available in the school for the children who required a nappy change during the hours of operation. A change of clothes was available for all children if needed. Protective clothing was accessible for the children to wear when participating in messy play activities, or when playing outdoors in wet weather.

Tissues and wipes were always reachable to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in lidded bins. A large couch with cushions and blankets provided a quiet space for children to rest and relax if tired during the session. Children got to spend time outdoors each day at the preschool. An enclosed area with a timber climbing frame with slide, playhouse and climbing wall was available to the children for gross motor play and development. The school yard was also available each morning for running, ball play and games.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The service operates from a large carefully designed classroom. The room had a range of developmentally appropriate well-resourced interest areas for the children e.g. a construction area, home corner/ imagination play area, a rest and relaxation reading area with a large soft couch. Lots of art and craft materials and sensory toys were accessible to the children at all times. Low level tables and chairs were used for dining at break time and for many tabletop activities at all other times. Lots of play materials and equipment were organised to be visible and easily accessible to the children on open low-level shelving.

A designated shelving area for the children's large bags was located in one corner of the room, which helped maintain an organized space for the storage of children's personal belongings.

Each child was assigned a coat hook with their name and picture to help the children to recognize their own name for independence and language development.

A large notice board in the preschool room and in the main school corridor outside the entrance door, helped to inform parents of all the relevant information regarding the service. Lots of educational posters and colourful charts displayed material on the walls of the room at a level suitable for the children to engage with. A display of each child's age and date of their birthday were visible. Children's artwork was clearly displayed around the room.

The outdoor play area provided space for more active play opportunities. The school yard was safe and secure with fully enclosed fencing surrounding the area. Children had access to a timber climbing frame, hula hoops, balls and building bricks. Children had the use of this area each morning.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) All adults dropping children to the service checked the child in with the person in charge of the service. At home time children were checked out of the service in a similar manner. The staff documented the children's arrival time and their departure time each day.

(3)(a) The service ensured that only children attending, the person who drops and collects and the employee's gain access to the premises.

(b) All visitors to the service must be signed in and signed out by the person in charge.