

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024WW004		
Name of Service:	Coolboy Preschool		
Address of Service:	Cornfield, Coolboy, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow		
Eircode:	Y14 N840		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sara Swords		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	18/11/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Mona Condon		
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

Coolboy pre-school is a privately operated service which is registered to provide sessional care for pre-school children from 2 years to 6 years of age. The hours of operation are between 09:00- 12:00 daily and the service can accommodate a maximum of 22 children. The premises is located in an adapted garage on the grounds of the registered provider's home. Outdoor play area for the service is sited at the side and back of the premises and car parking is provided at the front of the building.

Staffing

There were two staff present caring for twelve children, one of whom was the registered provider.

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

As this was the first inspection following the opening of the service this was an announced inspection and focused on the area of governance, and health, welfare and development of the 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 day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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 has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- Two adults were present on inspection.
- (a)&(b) There were four written and validated references for the two adults.
- (c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for one staff adult who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the two adults working directly with children had at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

(3) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children There were two adults present with 12 children during the inspection.

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)

Basic Needs of Infants and Children

- Healthy nutritious snacks in line with the healthy eating policy of the service were enjoyed by the children on the day of inspection. Staff sat with the children during snack time assisting the children when required and engaging them in conversation.
- Drinking water was available for the children throughout the morning.
- The children used the toilet independently and assistance was given if required.
- Children had access to the outdoor area where age-appropriate toys and equipment was available.
- The staff were observed to be kind, caring and patient in their interactions with the children. It was noted that any child who became upset was quickly soothed and cared for by staff.

Supporting Relationships around Children

- The adults present were observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards all of the children in their care.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. It was stated that a verbal handover on the child's day occurred at collection time for each child. The service also communicated using alternative means such as the service electronic app and phoning.

Physical and Material Environment

- The play resources available to the children were accessible, organised and stored on low level shelving which allowed the children to select and replace items and materials of interest.
- There was an adequate amount of age-appropriate furniture and equipment available in the room. Equipment included Montessori equipment, construction, toy animals, puzzles and a library.
- There was evidence of the children's artwork on display in the rooms.
- A secure outdoor area with a wood chip surface was located at the rear of the premises. Suitable play equipment available included a ride-on tractor, playhouse, large pirate boat, sand play and water play. Each child had dungaree waterproof leggings, raincoat and boots for playing outdoors.
- The playroom was spacious and warm and laid out to meet the needs of the children. An ambient temperature of 18.5°C – 20°C was maintained in the care room and the sanitary area.