

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK098
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Name of Service:	Knockainey Childminding & Afterschool Services
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Address of Service:	Baggotstown Bruff Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V35WF67
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sylvia Hayes
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	26/08/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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).

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Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

This is a childminding service which first opened in 2012. The service provides care and education to preschool children aged 6 months to 5 years of age. The service operates from 08.00hrs to 18.00hrs and caters for a maximum of 5 preschool children. It is located in a domestic dwelling in a rural area. Preschool children have free access to 2 rooms in the house i.e., the kitchen/dining room and playroom. The service has an outdoor play area located to the rear of the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment. Since the last inspection an additional safe secure outdoor space has been developed at the entrance to the service.

Staffing

The childminder and a second adult who works with the school aged children have childcare qualifications.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,12,19,25,26 and 28.

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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*

(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

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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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge or the deputy person in charge was available on the premises.
- (2) Documentation for the two staff had been checked on previous inspections and was deemed to be satisfactory.
- (a) References from the person's past employers and in particular the most recent employer were available.
- (b) References from reputable sources in the case of a person who had no past employers were available where required.
- (c) Vetting disclosures were available from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of both staff members and were dated within the last 3 years.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.
- (4) Both staff had childcare qualifications.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) At all times during the period of the inspection the childminder ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained as there was 1 staff working with 5 pre-school children on the day.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that-

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) There were 5 pre-school children present at any given time.

(b) There were no children under the age of 15 months.

(c) There was a working telephone on the premises.

(2) Not Applicable as there were no children under 15 months of age who were siblings.

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:

Healthy food was observed on the day of the inspection where dinner consisted of chicken, mixed vegetables, and mashed potatoes. A bowl of fresh fruit was available also. Children sat together at the table and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food.

The children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it.

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The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the room. There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play.

The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. Children were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities. Secure outdoor play facilities were available with varied outdoor play equipment and children spent most of their time outdoors.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This childminding service was operated from the childminders home. Adequate and varied play equipment suited to the age and stage of development of the child was available in the service and in the outdoor play area. Surplus play equipment was in storage and used on a rotational basis following cleaning. Books, jigsaws, sand and playdough were available as required for the children. The outdoor play area was well resourced with outdoor play equipment and consisted of a concrete surface and grass area. The area was surrounded by fencing and was safe and secure.

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) The childminder held current certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a) A fully stocked first aid box was available in the service.

(b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place 05/08/2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in August 2024 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available for the service and had an expiry date of 27/03/2025.