

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK187
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tots and Toddlers
-------------------------	-------------------

Address of Service:	Roseville House, Templemichael, Caherconlish, Co. Limerick1
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	V94 YV8Y
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Peggy Ryan
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Childminder
----------------------	-------------

Date of Inspection:	31/07/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	1	PM	1
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 nd Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	M Riordan
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

Description of service

Tots and Toddlers is a privately operated childminding service located in a rural setting, close to the village of Caherconlish in Co. Limerick. The service operates from 7.45am to 5.30pm weekdays throughout the calendar year. The service has the capacity to accommodate 5 pre-school children at any one time.

The service operates from the provider's family home. All areas of the home on the ground floor are accessible to the children and are laid out to safely accommodate the needs of children. A large well-resourced playroom is available next to the kitchen. The kitchen/ dining area and the family living room are accessible to the children for dining and for resting when required. Children have access to a well-resourced outdoor play space to the rear of the family home.in the back and front garden of the family home.

Staffing

The childminder operates the service single handed. There is a second person available to assist at all times 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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

(6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who-

- (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The childminder is the registered provider who owns and operates the service.
- (b) The childminder was present in the service on the day of the inspection.
- (2)(a) There were written references available for the childminder and for each person residing in the home.
- (b) All references available were all from a reputable source.
- (c) Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available in respect of the childminder. Vetting was also available for a second adult who resided within the home. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Not applicable to this service as the childminder had not lived outside the jurisdiction.

(6)(b) The childminder had signed the required declaration which exempts her from the requirement of having nationally recognised qualifications.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a detailed list of policies available for the service. These included a policy on Infection control, Administration of medication, Safe sleep, Complaints policy, Managing positive behavior, Settling in policy, Authorization to collect children, Inclusion policy, Accidents and incidents, Risk management policy, Healthy eating and Outdoor play.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(b) a childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency,

Compliance Information

(8)(b) The childminder has ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times either present with the childminder or is within close distance and available to attend the service to assist her in the event of an emergency.

This person is familiar with the children who attend the service.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) There are 6 children who are registered to attend the service. The childminder has ensured that there is no more than 5 pre-school children in attendance at any one time.

(b) All children presently attending the service are over the age of 15 months.

(c) There was a working telephone available on the premises for the childminder to use if required at any stage while minding the children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) All children's registration forms were viewed. The service had a record in writing containing the following particulars for each of the children.

- (a) The name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) Provision was made to record 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 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.
- (h) Record of immunisations, received by the child. All records were updated as required.
- (i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

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

Each child learning, development and wellbeing were facilitated within the daily life of the childminding service. Healthy eating was promoted within the service with healthy meals and snacks prepared fresh and served each day. A sample menu plan was available. Highchairs were available for the younger children to use at mealtimes. These were in good condition with safety harnesses all in place.

Nappy changing facilities and toilets were located in an area where children could be easily supervised at all times either by sight or by sound for short periods.

Children who required a sleep during the day had access to a standard cot. The cot was located in a quiet area in the playroom to allow the childminder to have direct supervision of all children while sleeping. A large soft couch was added to the playroom to facilitate older children having a rest during the day if needed.

A well-resourced outdoor area at the rear of the premises provided a safe space for the children to play outside. Children were encouraged to spend as much time as possible outside weather permitting.

Children were at all times supervised while outdoors with lots of age-appropriate toys and equipment available both in the playroom inside and in the outdoor garden.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for the childminder and for a second adult who resided in the home, however their vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Garda vetting was updated for all adults residing within the childminders home.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copies of the required Garda Vetting were forwarded to the Office of The Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 has first aid training completed and her certificate was in date to the 10th of September 2025.

(2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located in the service.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible in the kitchen area of the service if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The childminding services insurance certificate was viewed on the day of inspection. The policy commenced on the 4th of March 2024 and expired on the 3rd of March 2025.