

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY011
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Name of Service:	An Scoil Beag.
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Address of Service:	Killeen, Kylebrack, Loughrea, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H62 DE26
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Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Downey
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18 January 2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A. 1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Kelly
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
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Description of service

The service is located in a rural area of Kylebrack, Loughrea in Co Galway. There were 11 children present on the day of inspection. The building is a converted cottage adjacent to a national school. It consists of 2 playrooms, a kitchen and 2 children's sanitary areas. The service also has access to a large outdoor play area to the front of the building. The children also have access to a large, sheltered decking area that could be accessed directly from one of the

Staffing

There were 2 adults present on the day of inspection and all were working directly with the children and this includes 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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ and safety.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19, and 28.

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

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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

(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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises.
- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there was no new member of staff employed in the service since the last inspection. All staff files were review on previous inspection dated the 15/05/2021.

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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 11 pre-school children, attending the service .
At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care room was in operation.
- (3) Playroom (ECCE), there were two adults caring for 11 children.

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;*

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- (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.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

Compliance Information

The registered provider developed, maintained and retained records about each child attending the service.

- (1) The records contained all the appropriate information required to support the care provided by the service to each child.

A sample of the children's records were reviewed by the inspectors, of the 17 children attending the service, a total of 6 records were reviewed, all 6 records contained the necessary elements (a-i) as outlined above.
- (4) All records were retained for the required period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.

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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.

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- Children were independent with their toileting needs. However, on occasion some children needed a gentle reminder from staff.
- Children were observed washing their hands prior to lunchtime and after using the toilet. The children also wore their outdoor gear and wellingtons when playing in the outdoor play area. Children were encouraged to put on their outdoor coats on their own and staff offered help and assistance only when required.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a social event, the children ate their snacks from small plates and the staff sat with the children and ate their own lunch, speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children.
- Children got the opportunity to move freely between the two playrooms each day and they played in the outdoor play area each day. They finished the session by having circle time in the sheltered decking area, the children sang songs and rhymes. The leader of the day also handed out their lunch bags and this child was randomly picked each morning before the session started.
- The registered provider state that they used positive approaches for dealing with behavioural issues.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

- The outdoor play area has a large selection of areas to explore and use such as slides, climbing frames, timber house and swings also has a range of toys and equipment that can be used in the outdoor area.
- There was also concrete path area that the children could for range of ride on toys that was available to them. The children also had an area where they sowed spring bulbs, they were on display on an outdoor planting area where the children could view their progress.

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- There was a sheltered area that the children used for a range of tabletop activities, such as arts and crafts, imaginative and role playing (shop and home corner). On the day of inspection, the group of children and staff were observed in this area, for circle time at the end of the session.

INDOOR PLAY AREA

- The play area was divided into 2 separate playrooms offering different experiences for the children. The playrooms were bright and well laid out with a variety of distinct interest areas. Wall spaces were effectively used to display photographs of the children and their families, art works and posters relating to the current curricular plan.
- All of the play and educational resources were accessible to children on open shelving at their height. The children were observed on various occasion taking toys and puzzles off the shelves playing with them and before playing with a different toy or puzzle they returned the first toy to where they got it with any prompts or direction from the staff members.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A current insurance certificate was available with an expiry date of 27/03/2023. The registered provider had adequate insurance cover for 22 pre-school children.