

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



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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Email Address:	anscoilbeag@gmail.com
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Elaine Downey
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☒
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Date(s) of Inspection:	1	8	0	5	2	0	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	12	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
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Inspection undertaken by :	Ms F. Kelly
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	Safety

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 12 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.
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 (Inspectorate) is the independent statutory regulator of early year's 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 year's services is to ensure that the care, safety and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information:

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the register provider and the service manager it was confirmed that there was 1 new member of staff employed in the service since the last inspection.

These 11 staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

- (2)(a) There were 2 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the 1 adult in the service.
- (b) Not applicable, as all the reference available were from the employees most recent employer.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the 1 adult.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 1 adult working in the service that had lived for a period longer than 6 consecutive months outside the jurisdiction.
- (7) The register provider and the staff on the day confirmed to the inspector that they received a copy of updated policies and procedures for the service. Evidence of additional training that they staff attended (staff induction and return to work training) was also available for inspection. The service had made an addendum to each employee contact taking the Covid 19 Pandemic into account. It gives details of a newly appointed Covid representative in the workplace and the Covid Response plan which included Infection Control, Risk Management, drop off and collection policies and staff training in relation to working in play pods and records regarding same.

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:	There was documentary evidence available of the recently updated policies, procedures and statements of the pre-school, which were revised in line with the recent Covid 19 pandemic and the reflected practices changes regarding same. These were available in hard copy and electronically, the registered provider supplied evidence that each staff member had signed an attendance sheets stating that they have attended a return to work training session and an induction session on the revised policies.
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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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information:	(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. (3) At 10.15 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms/pod system was in operation. Pod 1 – Playschool, there were 2 adult working with 12 children aged between 3 year and 4 years. (8) Not applicable, as this service is not a service that is operated single-handedly.
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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:

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- As parents are not allowed access to the playrooms the staff have developed various methods to communicate with the parents such as emails and telephone conversations.
- There was a sheltered area in the front play area where the parents drop off their children, the parent are asked a series of questions to indicate if the children are free from the symptoms of Covid 19.
- All parents have received a copy of the revised policies of the service.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

INDOOR PLAY AREA

- 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.

OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

- The outdoor play area has a large selection of areas to explore and use such as slides, climbing frames and balancing beams, swings and houses. The registered provider also has a range of toys and equipment that can be used in the outdoor area.
- This area is also used for ball playing and the service has a range of ride on toys that was available to them.
- There was a sheltered area to the side of the service that the children used for a range of table top activities, Home corner and art and craft activities. On the day of inspection, the children spent a large proportion of the session in the outdoor area and in the sheltered area. The only time the children moved indoors was to eat their lunch.

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.

Compliance Information:

GENERAL SAFETY:

- The side entrance gate was secured thus prevented children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prohibiting unauthorised persons from entering the service.
- The outdoor play area in the service was securely fenced at all times.
- All storage facilities for waste and for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to the children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- The registered provider had completed a self-assessment checklist regarding Covid 19 guidelines to help identify, support the safe reopening of the service during the Covid 19 period.
- Hand sanitiser gel was available at the various places around the service, and there was an outdoor sink that the children could use at any time to wash their hands.
- Up to date cleaning records were available and were maintained, it detailed all areas and equipment that was cleaned. The outdoor play equipment are sprayed down each morning before the children arrived.
- All toys and equipment were cleaned after each session.
- There was a supply of tissues in each of the playrooms and in the outdoor play area.
- All parents of children attending are asked to wear a mask when dropping off and collecting their children. There is a system in place when collecting the children and there are 2 metre indicators on the ground to help parents maintain social distancing. The children were collected from the side entrance.