

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015KE043

Name of Service: Playdays Montessori

Address of Service: Nurney Demesne
Kiltoon
Nurney
Co. Kildare
R51DAZ1

Email Address: joloughman@gmail.com

Name of Registered Service Provider: Joan Loughman

Type of Service Registered: Sessional ☒

Date of Inspection: 1 5 0 9 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 17 PM N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Inspectorate
Child & Family Agency,
Suite 7
Vista Primary Care
Ballymore Eustace road
Naas, Co. Kildare

Inspection undertaken by: F. Maher
Title: Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	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.

Description of Service	This privately owned sessional service is situated in a rural setting. There were 17 children present on the day of inspection. A service is provided to children aged between 2- 6 years of age and is open Monday to Friday from 09:30-12:30hrs for 38 weeks of the year. Learning is facilitated through a play-based curriculum.
Premises	One large pre-school room is provided in a purpose-built premises to the rear of the private home of the registered provider. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the pre-school.
Staffing	Two adults, including the registered provider, were working directly with the pre-school children. Both adults employed in the service held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher, as recognised on the National Framework of Qualifications.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the pre-school room and the outdoor play area. 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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a)
There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b)
The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

A sampling process was used to review the staff records. There was one adult recruited since the last inspection and these records were reviewed.

(2)(c)

A completed Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of one new employee.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no adult employed had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

One childcare staff member recently employed and working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

(6)(a),(b)

Not applicable as no adult had signed a declaration to the effect that they intend to retire from employment in the pre-school service by 1st September 2021.

(6A)

Not applicable as no adult was employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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),(3)

The registered provider ensured there was at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service and ensured that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 were maintained as outlined in Table 1:

Table 1.

Room	Type of Service	Age Range in Years	Children Present	Adults Present	Relief adult available	Minimum number of adults required
Pre-school Room	Sessional	3-6 years	17	2	N/A	2

(8)(c)

Not applicable as the service is not operated single-handedly.

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:

(1)(a)

BASIC NEEDS

The service promoted healthy eating and parents provided the morning snack for their child. Children engaged with the inspector on a discussion about healthy eating and gave examples of healthy food snacks and drinks.

Regular hand washing had been implemented and children washed their hands on arrival, before snack, after toileting, outdoor play and as needed. Self-toileting was supported and children were supervised as necessary.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school environment and were suitable dressed for outdoor play activities.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

The pre-school room was spacious and bright and was equipped with low level child sized tables and chairs. Toys, materials and equipment were easily accessible on low level open shelving units in the pre-school room. Materials and equipment included paint, paper, crayons, art and craft supplies, Montessori equipment, blocks, puzzles, jigsaws, books, cars, and animals. Interest areas included a well-resourced home/kitchen corner, construction and a comfortable rest area with library.

The outdoor play environment was constructively planned with areas of interest that included sand play, water play, logs to sit on, balance beam, swing set and slides, a playhouse and a chalk board with chalk. Ride on equipment, balance bikes, ball games and push/pull toys were also available for the children.

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 entrance to the premises was secure.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

INFECTION CONTROL:

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice and had been updated to reflect current practice guidelines in relation to Covid-19. The staff members were aware of the procedures to be followed in the event a staff member or child exhibited symptoms of Covid-19 and an identified isolation area was available if required and personal protective equipment was available.

A constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, paper hand towel and liquid soap were available to support effective hand washing practices. Foot pedal operated bins were available for the hygienic disposal of used tissues and paper hand towel and the pre-school room and sanitary area was ventilated by means of openable windows. Children were aware of and demonstrated the safe and correct sneeze and cough etiquette to reduce the transmission of respiratory infection.

Enhanced cleaning regimes had been implemented throughout the service with daily cleaning schedules maintained which supported the measures taken for the environments, toys and equipment.