

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY043					
Name of Service:	Féileacán Pre-school					
Address of Service:	St. Senan's, Mountcoal, Listowel, Co. Kerry					
Email Address:	feileacanpreschool@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Olivia Hillard					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	2	1	1	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	20	PM			
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.					
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy					
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
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Description of Service	Féileacán pre-school is a private early years sessional service that operates between the hours of 08:50am and 11:50 am Monday to Friday inclusive.
Premises	The premise is located within St. Senan's Community centre. It consists of 1 playroom that is divided in to 2 areas by a foldable timber partition. There is a designated outdoor play area located to the rear of the building and a spacious indoor hall that children can access on a daily basis.
Staffing	Currently there are 5 adults employed in the service that includes the registered provider who work daily in the service.
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 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, Person in Charge, 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—
- (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 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:	(2) 1 file were presented to the inspector following confirmation with the registered provider that 1 staff member had commenced working in the service since the last inspection. Files for the remaining 4 adults were the subject of inspection at the last inspection and were satisfactory. (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for the 1 adult. (d) Not applicable as the adult had not resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months. (4) The adult had a major award in Early Childhood Care & Education at FETAC Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.
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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) There were 20 pre-school children attending the service on the day of the inspection. In the Féileacán room there were 8 children between the age of 4 and 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis with 2 adults caring for them. In the Caterpillar room there were 12 children attending on a sessional basis aged between the age of 3 years and 4 years with 3 adults caring for them. The adult child ratio was correct.
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Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

- (3) The minimum number of adults was maintained.
- (8)(c) 4 adults work daily in the service together with the registered provider who assists in both rooms as required.

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:

- All food consumed in the service for snack time was provided by the parents.
- The children sat on the low-level chairs at the low-level tables at snack time accompanied by an adult sitting with them at the tables.
- The adults assisted the children with opening food packaging and drinks bottles as need and remained with the children for the duration of time the children took to eat.
- Conversations between the children ensued during snack time and the adults were observed facilitating and encouraging children to participate in conversation with their peers. The conversations that arose included for example the Halloween costumes the children wore on the day, their favourite Halloween treats and Halloween parties.
- The children were observed eating at their own individual pace in an unhurried relaxed environment. Children who had finished eating before the others started playing with the various toys, some starting drawings and some looked at books.
- The food observed on the day of the inspection included for example crackers, strawberries, rice cakes, yogurts, strawberries, chopped kiwis and orange segments.
- Children were able to access their drinks bottles during the session and drinking water was available to top up the bottles when needed. The provider also had bottled water available on the premises.
- The children were observed independently using the toilets with the adults accompanying them to supervise and help as needed.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The adults caring for the children on the day of the inspection were caring and kind and demonstrated an understanding of individual children's needs. They had dressed in Halloween costumes as the children had on the day of the inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- They were observed sitting at the tables whilst doing tabletop activities and staying with the children whilst playing in the different areas in the room, interacting and assisting the children as needed.
- The 5 adults employed in the service work daily with the children thus ensuring that children can form and sustain secure relationships with them.
- The registered provider informed the inspector the methods of communication with parents include verbally at the children's arrival and departure times, by email, text messaging, What's App issuing daily pictures of activities the children participate in, a description of the activities, newsletters and per telephone.
- 'Child friendly' hand washing signage and coughing and sneezing etiquette signage were displayed in the sanitary accommodation and in the playrooms.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The premise consisted of 1 large room that was divided into 2 pre-school rooms by means of a foldable timber partition with a door.
- The rooms were spacious, bright and airy via the windows that were open during the session.
- The walls were colourfully decorated with various artwork the children had completed that included Halloween themed art items, Halloween decorations, autumn themed art, various posters and family photographs.
- There was an adequate number of child sized tables and chairs for the number of children attending the service.
- The children present enjoyed free movement in the rooms.
- There was a variety of equipment and materials available on low level open shelving, on the floor and within boxes to promote children to easily access them as they wanted to during the session.
- The range of toys in the Féileacán room included for example small animals, pegs and peg boards, puzzles, arts and crafts items, books, blocks, trains and train tracks, farm sets, small vehicles and a large tray for Halloween messy pretend play made with spaghetti, pasta shapes, glitter, and various Halloween characters
- In the Caterpillar room the toys available included for example a tool bench, a kitchen with associated utensils, a large dolls house, puzzles, paints and a painting easel with protective aprons, blocks, baskets of autumn leaves the children had collected and for Halloween, basins of jelly with spiders and false teeth provided for messy play for the children.
- Children had access to a rest/ relaxation area in both rooms, it consisted of soft cushions and matting on the floor seating area where they could rest/ relax and opt out of an activity as they so wished.
- The children attending the service had access daily to the spacious indoor hall and to a designated enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the building.

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 door to the service was secure.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secure.
- Cleaning products were stored out of the reach of the children attending.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- A record of visitors to the service was maintained for contact tracing purposes.
- A record of the children's daily attendance was maintained.
- Hand sanitiser was provided on a designated stand at the entrance to the building and within the playrooms.
- The service had implemented measures to maintain social distancing with clear signage on display outside the service and at the entrance door.
- The playrooms were ventilated on the day of inspection by means of the open-able windows that were open throughout the session.
- A supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels to ensure effective hand washing was provided in the Féileacán room.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of waste.
- A designated isolation area was identified in the service and a designated box of personal protective equipment was available.
- The play equipment, fixtures and fittings were clean and dry on the day of the inspection.
- The tables were cleaned prior to children having their snack and after snack time.
- Boxes of tissues were accessible to the children in the playrooms.
- Cleaning schedules to respond to COVID-19 were devised and daily records maintained for cleaning the toys and the fixtures and fittings.

Non-Compliance Information:

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. In the Caterpillar room there was a large stage area with a full-length curtain in place that was pulled during the inspection. Children could gain access to the stage where loose cables were accessible within an un-secured press. An un-secured door opened into to an un-occupied room that exited out to the carpark and roadway via an un-secured door.
This non-compliance was founded on the last inspection of 21/01/2019.

INFECTION CONTROL:

2. There was no warm water at the sinks in the children's sanitary accommodation and in the adult sanitary accommodation throughout the course of the inspection which did not ensure effective handwashing by the children and the adults after using the toilet posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	3. The room with 1 toilet cubicle and a urinal area that was cornered off and not used by the pre-school children, had a concrete painted floor that was scuffed, areas of the ceiling had areas of black staining and the paint was peeling away which posed a risk of the spread of infection.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	The registered provider stated that: - <u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: 1. Locks have been fitted on the second storage door on the stage. A lock has been fitted on the exit door from the stage. INFECTION CONTROL: 2. The plumber checked the water in both the children's sanitary accommodation and the adult sanitary. A valve needed repairing. 3. She has spoken with the committee of the building and they have agreed to ensure the building is to be maintained. During covid there was no person working to maintain the clubhouse. Since the inspection a person has been sourced and this will help with the maintenance of the building. The person employed will maintain the toilets, the reception area, the Astro turf and kitchen area Monday to Friday each week. Each day the premises will be checked. The walls and ceilings have been disinfected since the inspection. All ceilings have been treated and painted. Walls and floors have been painted. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: 1. A staff meeting was held on 01/11/2021 and at this meeting a staff member was allocated responsibility to ensure the stage was checked every morning before the children arrived, checking the storage door locks and the exit door is locked. INFECTION CONTROL: 2. The Manager will check the water in the sinks every morning before the children arrive to ensure there is adequate water. A plumber has been organised to check the system every term to ensure the water system is working correctly. If hot water is not detected, there is a buster pump in the plantroom which gives an instant boost of hot water. Daily checklists that include checking the hot water are in place. 3. As the proprietor of the service, she will ensure that there is more regular meetings with the club committee in keeping with the maintenance of the building. It is a challenge for the pre-school as they are not the only people using the room and the toilets, on their side they have a lot of extra cleaning and organising of the room, therefore this is where maintenance can be difficult as a small pre-school to maintain within a large clubhouse. They will work to the best of their ability to keep on top of this challenge.
Summary Comment:	All correspondence that included completed corrective and preventive actions, photographs of the work carried out, checklists devised for the service, a letter from the plumber and from the Chairperson of the Committee of the building was

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

examined. The non-compliances have been addressed and the requirement has been met. The above will be the subject of inspection at the next inspection.

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 5 staff members had completed First Aid responder training. (2) (a) The first aid boxes were stored out of the reach of the children up high in both rooms. (b) The first aid boxes were available to the children attending at all times.
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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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: - (a) Each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 14/09/2021. (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the fire fighting equipment and the smoke alarm. The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers was May 2021 and the smoke alarm was January 2021. The registered provider submitted a maintenance cert for the smoke alarm dated 26/10/21 to the office of the early years inspectorate. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.
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Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified	
Regulation 29 -Premises	
<i>(c) kept adequacy lit, heated and ventilated,</i>	
Non-Compliance Information:	(c) 1. The air temperature of the bathroom with 1 toilet and the urinal cornered off was recorded at 15 degrees Celsius. There was no means of heating in the room and this non-compliance was also founded at the last inspection. The registered provider submitted a Corrective and Preventive action at that time stating that heaters were installed in the toilets and in the corridor area. The inspector observed 1 heater was in place in the corridor area and 1 heater was in place in the room with the 2 toilets.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The toilets are also being used by the club for football/sports. There was a heater installed after last inspection but had been damaged outside of preschool hours and with Covid etc. they had not got around to reinstalling the heater in the second toilet. Since the inspection, a new heater has been installed. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The proprietor of the service will ensure that any damage to preschool equipment will be replaced as soon as is possible.
Summary Comment	All correspondence received was reviewed including photographs of the heater installed, a receipt for the purchase of the heater and daily checklists devised. The non-compliance has been addressed and the requirement has been met. The above will be inspected at the next inspection.