

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY065					
Name of Service:	Listowel Pre-school Playgroup					
Address of Service:	26 Convent Street Listowel Co. Kerry					
Email Address:	anneenright@live.ie					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Anne Enright					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	☒				
Date of Inspection:	2	8	0	2	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	09	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	Listowel Pre-school Playgroup is a private early years service that operates between the hours of 08:45am and 11:45am Monday to Friday inclusive. It caters for children between the ages of 2 years and 6 years.
Premises	The premises is a single storey building. There are 2 playrooms and a designated outdoor play area located to the rear of the building that is accessible to the children attending.
Staffing	There are 2 adults employed in the service each day and 2 named relief staff to provide cover as required.
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 announced 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. 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

- (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)(c)&(d), (4) The person in charge informed the inspector that no new staff had been recruited since the last annual inspection, therefore no recruitment records were inspected. The 4 staff files were the subject of the last inspection and deemed to be compliant.
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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 2 adults working with 9 children aged between 3 years and 4 years attending on a sessional basis throughout the period of the inspection. The adult child ratio was correct. (3) The minimum number of adults was maintained. (8) (c) 2 adults are working in the service daily
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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:

- The parents of the children attending the service provide the food for the mid- morning snack.
- On speaking with the staff members, they informed the inspector that healthy food items in line with the Healthy Eating Policy of the service are promoted. The parents are furnished with a copy of the Healthy Eating Policy for the service with the enrolment pack.
- The inspector observed the children helping themselves to a drink from their individual drink's bottles during the session. The staff members stated that the bottles can be re-filled as needed at the sink in the kitchenette as required.
- The children were assisted at snack time with opening their lunch boxes, opening food packaging and chopped fruit up as was needed.
- The food observed on inspection included for example sandwiches, buttered slices of brown bread, crackers, rice cakes, cheese, sliced apples, chopped strawberries and bananas.
- The staff members remained with the children for the period of time whilst they were eating and they had ample time to eat meeting each child's individual needs for eating.
- Some children took their snacks later in the morning than others and their lunch boxes were made available to them on the low-level table.
- They sat on the low- level chairs at the low-level tables and when finished put away their respective lunch boxes assisted by the staff.
- The children's toilets were located adjoining the playroom which enabled the children to easily access them and the adults were observed supervising and helping as required.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- The 2 adults present on inspection work with the children each day enabling the children to form and sustain secure relationships with them.
- The staff communicate with parents at drop off and collection times, by telephone and email.
- On speaking with the registered provider in charge she explained that the staff are always willing to speak to parents at an appropriate scheduled time regarding their children's attendance in the service.
- The staff members working on the day of inspection were observed to be kind and caring towards the children in their care and were cognisant of children who were new to the service assisting them in settling in.
- The inspector observed the staff re-iterating to the children "thanks for sharing with their friends" and to be "kind and gentle" with each other.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- 'Child friendly' hand washing signage was displayed behind on the wall at children's eye level at the entrance to the sanitary accommodation.
- PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**
- Children had full use of the 2 playrooms as the door adjoining the 2 rooms remained open during the session allowing the children freedom of choice to move freely between the 2 rooms to play with the various toys.
 - The playrooms were bright and colourfully decorated with various posters, family pictures and artwork that children had completed.
 - An adequate number of child sized tables and child sized chairs were in place for the children attending.
 - Rest areas that consisted of a large bean bag and soft vinyl couches were provided where children could rest, opt out of an activity and relax.
 - Toys were stored on low level shelving, within boxes on the floor, directly on the floor which allowed children to readily access the toys they wished to play with during the session.
 - There was a variety of play equipment and materials available and accessible to the children attending.
 - Some of the toys observed on the day of the inspection in both playrooms included for example a shop area, a toy kitchen and associated accessories, car stations, small animals, sand, dolls, buggies, a selection of books, tool boxes, a selection of blocks, puzzles, pegs and peg boards.
 - The outdoor play area was directly accessible from the second playroom. The surface underfoot consisted of partial soft matting and paving. The equipment in place included for example playhouses, small activity units, a play kitchen, a slide, planting boxes and planting boxes used for planting bulbs.

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 was secured with a high-level closure device and a secure child safety gate.
- Cleaning products were observed to be stored on high shelving, within the kitchenette out of the reach of the children.
- The kitchenette and office area were secured with child safety gates rendering the areas inaccessible to the children.
- The outdoor play area was secure.

INFECTION CONTROL:

- Personal protective equipment that included disposable aprons, gloves and face masks were provided.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	• The play equipment, materials and furnishings observed on the day of inspection were clean. • Hand sanitiser was provided on the premises and was observed used by the children on arrival to the service under the adult's supervision. • Hand washing facilities were provided in the adult sanitary accommodation and in the kitchenette with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towels to ensure effective hand washing by the staff and the children in the service. • Pedal operated lidded bins were provided for the hygienic disposal of waste. • Tissues were available for children's use in the room. • The tables were cleaned prior to children having their meals. • An adequate supply of anti-bacterial cleaning agents was observed that were stored out of the reach of the children. • Perishable food items were hygienically stored within the fridge in the kitchenette. • A change of clothes was kept on the premises for the children attending.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: 1. A rodent box was accessible to the children in the outdoor play area posing a risk of poisoning to children. 2. A spiral bound children's book had become detached from the book and posed a risk to children of injury. 3. The temperature of the warm water exceeded 43 degrees Celsius in the children's sanitary accommodation posing a risk of scalding children. The temperature of the water was recorded as follows: - • Wash hand basin 1 was 48.4 degrees Celsius • Wash hand basin 2 was 47.6 degrees Celsius This was brought to the attention of the registered provider. On rechecking the water temperature further on into the inspection it was recorded as follows: - Wash hand basin 1 was 38.2 degrees Celsius Wash hand basin 2 was 40.8 degrees Celsius. This was also founded at the last inspection on 21/05/2019. INFECTION CONTROL: 4. A wet mop as identified by the registered provider for use indoors when the inspector asked her was not stored in a clean and hygienic manner to prevent the spread of infection. It was observed stored directly on the ground in the outdoor play area. 5. A number of the open shelving units in the playrooms and the blue low-level tabletop was scuffed and did not have smooth surfaces making it difficult to adequately clean them posing a risk of the spread of infection. 6. The corners of the soft vinyl couch were ripped in some areas making it difficult to adequately clean posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Corrective & Preventive
Action submitted by the
Registered Provider

The registered provider stated that: -

CORRECTIVE ACTION

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. Rodent box has been removed permanently.
2. The spiral bound book has been disposed of.
3. A qualified electrician has ensured that the thermostat is set at 43 degrees. The water will be checked twice daily to ensure it does not reach 43 degrees.

INFECTION CONTROL:

4. The mop will be stored in the shed, ensuring that the mop is stored off the floor.
5. The open shelving and the blue table have been repaired and cleaned and are fit for purpose.
6. The vinyl sofa has been removed.

PREVENTIVE ACTION

GENERAL SAFETY:

1. No rodent box is accessible to children now or in the future.
2. Regular checks of books are done to ensure no book is in an unfit state.
3. Regular visits have been scheduled to ensure that this remains at this temperature. The water will be checked twice daily to ensure it does not reach 43 degrees.

INFECTION CONTROL:

4. The mop will be stored in the shed.
5. Regular checks of the furniture and storage system is in place to ensure that they remain at a high standard.
6. Regular checks of the furniture and storage system is in place to ensure that they remain at a high standard.

Summary Comment:

All correspondence and photographic evidence submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate has been examined.
The non-compliances have been addressed and the requirement has been met.
The above matters 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 adults working with the children had completed First Aid Responder training and the certification for same was on file.
- (2)
- (a) A first aid box was stored on a high shelf in the kitchenette.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First Aid

	(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and was out of the reach of the children.
Non-Compliance Information	(2) The first aid box was not suitably equipped for the number of children attending the service. 1 adhesive dressing expired on 08/2021, 1 non-adhesive dressing expired 08/2018 and the packet of 1 sterile adhesive dressing was open and the dressing stored loosely in the box.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (2) The first aid box has now been upgraded and restocked by a pharmacist to meet the requirements of 6 to 25 children. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (2) The first aid box will be checked weekly to ensure that it remains at a full capacity and all stock is in date.
Summary Comment	Correspondence received was examined and was deemed to meet the requirement. The above will be the subject of inspection at the next inspection.

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
- (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 25/01/2022.
 - (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 12/10/2021 and the smoke alarm was 12/10/ 2021.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified	
Regulation 16- Record in relation to a pre-school service	
<i>(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:</i>	
<i>(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;</i> <i>(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;</i>	
Non-Compliance Information:	(1)(h) A record of the arrival and departure time for each pre-school child attending the service on a daily basis was not available. (i) A record of the details of staff rosters on a daily basis was not available.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> (1)(h) A record of the arrival and departure time for each pre-school child attending the service on a daily basis is now in place. (i) A record of the details of staff rosters on a daily basis is now available in the school register. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> (1)(h) This record book is used, updated and checked daily for each entry and each departure. (i) The record of the details of staff rosters is updated and checked on a daily basis.
Summary Comment	All correspondence received was reviewed. The non-compliances have been addressed and the requirement has been met.