

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KY065
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Listowel Pre-school Playgroup
-------------------------	-------------------------------

Address of Service:	26 Convent Street, Listowel, Co. Kerry
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	V31 YX44
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Enright
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	17/04/2024
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	04	PM	None
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	------

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
Inspection undertaken by:	N. Reidy
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	N/A

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Listowel Pre-school Playgroup is a private early years service that is registered to provide sessional care for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years, offering two sessions between the hours of 08:45am and 11:45 am and the 2nd from 12 mid-day and 3pm. The service is currently operating between the hours of 08:45 am and 11:45 Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from two interlinking playrooms within a single-story building, the children attending the service have the use of both rooms each day. There is a designated fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the premise.

Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service including the registered provider who both work daily with the children.

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/ safety/. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the 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.

Additional Information

In consultation with the registered provider, a referral was sent to the Fire Officer to advise on fire safety issues regarding the designated fire assembly point.

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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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

(1)

(a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there a named deputy who can deputize as required on the premise.

(b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge and the named deputy is on the premise. Both adults were on the premise to facilitate the inspection process.

(2)

The registered provider confirmed that two adults were employed in the service. The recruitment records in respect of these two adults were furnished to the inspector.

(a)

Two written references and validations were on file from a past employer.

(b)

Two written references and validations were on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c)

The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of two adults.

(d)

Police vetting was on file for two adults who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

(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) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children attending the service.

(3) There were 2 adults caring for 4 children aged between 2 to 5 years attending the service on a sessional basis. The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not currently operate single-handedly.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(h)

1. The children's daily attendance was not recorded in respect of two of the four children present on the day of the inspection.

2. The children's arrival and departure times were not recorded on a daily basis.

(i)

Details of staff rosters on a daily basis, the start and finish time for each staff member was not recorded. The most recent staff roster on file was for week 26.2.'24.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(h)

1. The two children's attendance on the day of the inspection have now been recorded. All children's attendance records are double checked by both staff members daily.

2. The children's arrival and departure time is now recorded on a new format daily.

(i) The staff rosters are now recorded including the arrival and departure time. The staff are aware to include the arrival and departure time.

Supporting documentation submitted

(h) Copies of the completed attendance records for children attending the service.

(i) Copies of completed staff rosters.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, and

Compliance Information

- The children moved about freely on inspection in the indoor environment.
- The service had a variety of toys and resources available to the children positioned on the low-level open shelving and on the floor for children to independently access them during the session.
- The parents of the children attending supplied the food served at the mid-morning snack. They sat at the low -level tables and ate sandwiches, and a variety of fruit. Crockery was provided in the service as was required.
- The adults supervised the children whilst eating allowing children ample time to eat. The children who had finished eating before the others went to play.
- The service has a designated "cosy corner" that was furnished with a large rug on the floor and a soft couch.
- The staff supported the children with toileting. They had unlimited access to the toilets located in the playroom.
- The staff were kind, caring and attentive to the children in their care.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 doors to the service were secured, a new playroom door with a double closure device was in place to ensure no child could leave the service unattended and no unauthorised adult could gain access to the premises.
- The kitchenette was inaccessible to the children, the area was secured with a child gate.
- The temperature of the warm eater at the wash hand basins in the children's sanitary accommodation was recorded, it did not exceed 43 degrees Celsius.

Infection Control:

- There was warm water, soap and paper hand towels and a pedal operated lidded bin for the disposal of the paper towels in the children's sanitary accommodation to support effective hygienic hand washing.
- The tables were sanitized down prior to the mealtime.
- Children were observed washing their hands before the mealtime and after using the toilet.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The two corners on the low-level black worktop area were sharp and posed a risk of injury to the children.
2. A tall timber unit was unsteady on the uneven floor area posing a risk of falling over on children causing injury.
3. Two timber benches in the outdoor play area were unsteady posing a risk to children of falling over and causing injury

Infection Control:

4. The corners of a vinyl couch located in the rest area were ripped open, posing a risk of cross infection as it was difficult to clean it adequately.
5. The wet mop and bucket were stored in the kitchenette posing a risk of the spread of infection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Fire Safety:

- Records on file demonstrated the frequency of the fire drills conducted in the service were not adequate. The last recorded fire drill that took place on 20.01.'24.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The two corners on the low-level worktop have now been repaired to a child safety standard. This area will be checked for safety at clean up time daily as part of the safe work environment ethos.
- The timber unit has been moved to a stable space in the room. It will remain in the safe space and not return to the uneven floor area in the room.
- The timber benches have been repaired and repainted. They will be checked for safety and any damage on a regular basis.

Infection Control:

- The vinyl couch has been removed from the room. All damaged items will be removed when we inspect and clean on a regular basis.
- The wet mop and bucket have been removed from the kitchen.

Fire Safety:

- A fire drill had been carried out on 26/02/'24 and on 05/03/'24, the records had not been updated for these dates. The records have now been updated and a fire drill has been conducted on 29/04/'24. To prevent this problem reoccurring the fire drills will be immediately recorded when completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- A photograph of the with the corners covered.
- A photograph of the re-located tall timber unit in the playroom.
- A photograph of the repaired timber benches.

Infection Control:

- A photograph of the rest area without the vinyl couch.
- A photograph of the kitchen without the mop in place.

Fire Safety:

- A record of the fire drill conducted on 29/04/'24.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 Inspector was informed that the two adults working with the children had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the certifications in respect of these were furnished to the inspector.

(2) (a) The first aid box was stored in a high-level cupboard in the secured kitchenette.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults and out of the reach of the children

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) The first aid box was not suitably stocked.

The following items were not in stock in addition to the contents provided: -

- Water burns dressings (1 small and 1 large)
- 2 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (medium).
- 3 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (extra-large)
- 6 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (large)-
- 2 Crepe bandage (7cm)

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The first aid box is now suitable stocked with the listed items. The first aid box will include an updated list of the required items and this will be checked and re-stocked as and when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the stocked first aid box was received.

Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 29/01/2024.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment. The records on file demonstrated the last check for the firefighting equipment was 10/04/2024 and for the fire alarm was 26/10/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was open to inspection.

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the sessional service.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 11 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'25.