

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK022							
Name of Service:	Bernie's Pre-School,							
Address of Service:	Hillview House, Bottomstown, Knockainey, Co. Limerick							
Email Address:	berniespreschool23@gmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Bernie Cleary							
Type of service registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date(s) of Inspection:	2	0	0	4	2	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	12	PM	N/A				

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Office, South East Wing, St. Joseph's Hospital, Mulgrave Street, Limerick.
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Inspection undertaken by :	M Riordan
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	Bernie's Pre-school Naionra is a private sessional pre-school service. It is located in a rural setting in the Registered Providers home in Knockainey, County Limerick. It is opened from 9.00am to 12.00md Monday to Friday. On the day of the Inspection there were 12 pre-school children in attendance. The service operates from a large well-resourced playroom in the house. There are sanitary facilities adjacent to the Pre-school room. Large outdoor, adventurous garden spaces are provided with a sheltered outdoor play space recently added to the service. Outdoor sanitary accommodation is also available.
Staffing	The Registered Provider is the designated person in charge of running the service. A second staff is employed at the school. Both staff hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. There is documented evidence in the service outlining the continued professional training and education undertaken by both members of staff.
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. 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	Not applicable.
Acknowledgements	The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the Registered Provider, the staff and the 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:

- (2) The Registered Provider ensures that each person working at the service is suitable and competent.
- The following required documentation for both adults working in the service was viewed at a previous inspection.
- (a) Written references from the persons past employers and in particular the most recent employer.
 - (b) References from reputable sources where past employer references were not obtainable.
 - (c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of each person.
 - (d) Police vetting for staff that had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months was not required for the either staff member.
- (7)(a) Prior to returning to work both staff received appropriate information and training on the services revised policies and procedures in relation to COVID-19 including:
- Infection Control policy, Risk Management policy, Incident Plan, Training on correct procedures for hand washing, revised drop off and collection procedures and revised procedures for cleaning and infection control.

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:	A risk management policy was in place which identified any potential risks and the controls required to reduce or eliminate the risk. The policy had been reviewed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy on infection control had been updated to include infection control measures for COVID-19. These were available in hard copy and electronically. The registered provider supplied evidence that both staff members had attended training sessions and a detailed induction session on the updated and 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*
- (2) *Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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.*

Compliance Information:	(1) The Registered Provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children at all times. (2) On the day of the inspection there were 2 staff working with 12 preschool children. The adult/child ratio was correct.
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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:	(1)(a) SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN: On the day of the visit to the service staff and children were all outdoors engaged in lots of different play activities. The door to the Pre-school room was open at all times and children had choice to move freely from outdoors and the indoors if they wished. Opportunities for outdoor play were maximised throughout the day. Appropriate outdoor clothing was worn by all children. All parents were provided with updates to the policies and procedures for the service in light of Covid-19 restrictions. Children were dropped off and collected each day to and from the designated outdoor area. The parents did not meet outside and did not enter the pre-school building.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Detailed feedback in relation to each child's day was shared through a text message system with parents. Photographs were forwarded to parents to demonstrate the activities and tasks children engaged in each day. In light of Covid 19 restrictions these measures minimised the physical contact time between staff and parents at drop off and collection times while at the same time keeping parents informed of the events at the service.

Sanitary accommodation was located next to the Pre-school room and a second toilet and wash hand basin was located outdoors. Warm water and soap were available to ensure adequate hand washing in both areas. Staff were observed assisting and guiding the children who needed help with hand washing to ensure safe practice.

Rest areas with soft seating, cushions and soft floor mats were accessible in the Pre-school if children required a rest.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The pre-school follows the principle that exposure to the natural outdoor environment and natural materials such as sand, water, clay, vegetables, grass and exploratory play are beneficial for the early learning and development of young children. The service follows the Aistear curriculum and the day is full of activities which are aimed at developing social, emotional, cognitive, physical and interaction skills. The kids learn these skills through a wide range of play-based activities and experiences both indoors and outdoors. The list indoors and in the sheltered outdoor area include table-top activities, building and construction, play dough, art, messy play, experiments, dramatic play, story-telling, puppets and music. In the lawns and gardens gross motor play is very popular on the play equipment and on the variety of ride on toys. Much time is spend exploring the outdoors, enjoying the gardens with access to planting areas, fairy gardens and discovering the magic of nature in the fields with animals and poultry.

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:

On arrival to the service, the entrance gate into the facility was secured. There was a hand sanitising station inside the main entrance. Contact details of all visitors to the service were recorded.

Cleaning agents were easily available and were stored in inaccessible cupboards and safe areas, well out of reach of children. Toys used in each room were cleaned thoroughly as required and at the end of each day.

The outdoor areas were well secured with a wall, hedging, steel railing and secure gates surrounding each play space.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Staff at the service were aware of the need to self isolate if feeling unwell and they were aware of the required actions to be taken if a child or an adult became symptomatic while in the service. An isolation space was identified and a supply of personnel protective equipment was available if required. Accurate attendance records were maintained each day of the children with arrival and departure times documented.

Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste were appropriately disposed of in foot pedal operated, lidded bins in each area of the service. All children use hand sanitiser on arrival each morning. Hand washing occurred at regular intervals throughout the day. A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels were available in all areas of the service.

A written cleaning record was available where high contact areas were regularly cleaned. Play equipment in the indoor and outdoor areas were cleaned on a regular basis and a record of cleaning was maintained.

All toys, play materials and equipment available to the children were cleaned at the end of each day.

Play rooms, communal areas and sanitary areas were adequately ventilated by natural ventilation and the windows remained open at all times.

A good standard of operational hygiene was noted throughout all areas of the service.