

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier: TU2015LM015

Name of Service: Eivers Lane Childcare Centre

Address of Service: Cannon Donohoe Hall,
Mohill,
Leitrim.
N41 RX25

Email Address: manager@eiverslane.ie

Name of Registered Service Provider: Padraig Mc Weeney

Type of Service Registered: **Part-Time** ☒

Date(s) of Inspection: 0 2 1 1 2 0 2 1

No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection: AM 16 PM -

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: Early Years Services,
Markievicz House,
Barrack St,
Sligo. F91 XC84

Inspection undertaken by: S. Mc Kenna
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	Eivers Lane Childcare Centre was first notified as a community based childcare service managed by a local voluntary committee in 2015. It provides a part time service from 9am to 1pm, five days per week. The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 22 children. The pedagogy of the service is based on a play-based curriculum.
Premises	The service is operated from the local community hall in the town of Mohill Co. Leitrim. There is one large room for children's use. Eivers Lane Pre-school is located within close proximity of Eivers Lane Childcare Centre (Full day care), both services share the same outdoor play area on a rotation basis in line with covid 19 guidelines.
Staffing	There are three adults employed in the part-time service. All three adults have completed the equivalent of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, with two adults holding a Level 6 and one adult holding a level 7 qualification. An adult on a college work placement programme was present on the day of inspection.
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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

- (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.
- (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) There was a designated person in charge, and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) On the day of inspection and upon review of the weekly staff roster the registered provider ensured that while the pre-school service was in operation the designated person in charge was on the premises.
- (2)
- Three new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection. One adult who was on a work placement from college was present on the day. All four adult's files have been reviewed for the purpose of the inspection.
- (a) and (b) Two written references from previous employers were available for the three new staff members and one adult on work placement.
 - (a) Evidence of completed Garda Vetting disclosures was available for three staff members, and one adult on work placement.
 - (d) Two staff members had resided outside the state for a period longer than 6 months. Police vetting from the relevant police authorities was available on file for the two staff members.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

(4)

Three new staff members held major awards in early childhood care and education on the National Qualifications Framework. Two staff held a level 6 qualification, and one staff member held a level 7 qualification. One adult on work placement was in training for level 5, however is not included in the adult child ratios, therefore is exempt from the requirement to hold a minimum level 5 or equivalent qualification.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service on the day of the inspection. Four adults were working directly with the children. Three adults were employed by the service. One adult was on a college work placement and was not included within the adult child ratio.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection. There were sixteen pre-school children attending the service being supervised by three adults employed by the service. Children in attendance were aged between 3 years 5 months up to 4 years 9 months.

HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

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:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the preschool service. Cereal is provided should a child require it upon arrival to the preschool service, with preschool lunch served at 11am daily. Children availing of additional hours are offered another snack at 12:30pm. The children bring in their own lunches from home for 11am snack which contained sandwiches, yogurts, fruit, meats, rice cakes and crackers. Potable water was available throughout the preschool session to the children in individual labelled bottles.
- Snack time was unrushed, with adults sitting with children. The adults engaged in conversations with the children throughout snack time. Circle time occurred afterwards, with any children who hadn't yet finished their snack facilitated to continue to finish their food until they were ready to join in.
- The children were encouraged to use the toilet independently with help provided by the adults if required. The children's sanitary accommodation is located outside the preschool room, adults take children to the bathroom as required.
- The children were observed to wash their hands after messy play, toileting, outdoor play and before meal times. Care and attention were given to children's appearance through an availability of tissues placed throughout the preschool room, spare clothes if required, aprons for messy play, indoor shoes and appropriate outdoor clothing.
- The children had access to a variety of designated play areas within the preschool room at all times.
- The adults responded to any behavioural issues promptly and appropriately. Observations were made where adults pre-empted problems from arising through discussing who takes a turn next on outdoor bikes and trucks that were seen to be the most popular toys.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- A keyworker system is in place within the preschool service. Individual observations carried out by the children's keyworkers were used to in planning the preschool curriculum. The children's art activities and learning journals were stored in individual boxes with the child's picture displayed on the front of the box.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- The interactions observed between the staff and children were positive, staff demonstrated a knowledge of the children's likes and dislikes through conversations at snack time about banana sandwiches and children's own individual drinking bottles.
- The children were familiar with the routine of the preschool session. A strong teamwork approach was evident within the preschool room, where staff worked seamlessly alongside each other, ensuring a smooth transition from activities, and as much as possible children did not have to wait for long periods. It was observed that during circle time, children could opt out from taking part and could avail of other activities within the room if they wished to do so.
- Communication with parents is predominantly face to face while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Email is also used as a method of communication.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The preschool room is spacious and sectioned off into designated areas of play. A home corner with dress up, table top areas, floor play with construction and animals, jigsaw area, book area, creative area and sand and water areas were provided within the preschool room.
- Tables and chairs were suitable for the age of children attending the preschool, with adult seating available throughout the preschool room.
- Equipment and resources were on low level shelving and available for use to the children at all times.
- The preschool room was clean and maintained in a hygienic condition, with up-to-date cleaning records available. Risk assessments were carried out on a daily basis both indoors and outdoors.
- An outdoor area was available to the preschool children, which was located next to the full day care service. The outdoor area is divided into five areas in line with infection control guidance on pods in childcare services. There was a designated area each day for the preschool children to use, therefore ensuring access to outdoor play was available to the preschool children at all times. The area used by the preschool children on the day of inspection contained balance bikes, ride on tractors, a basketball hoop and ball, a slide and a trike. Adults explained that outdoor play is scheduled to take place between 10-11am daily. The children have welly boots and suitable outdoor clothing that can be used when it is raining outside to ensure they still have access to their outdoor environment, while dressed appropriately.

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Non-Compliance Information:	BASIC NEEDS: There was no provision of adequate and suitable facilities for a part time pre-school child to rest during the day.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> BASIC NEEDS: Soft seating area has been introduced and is available to children for rest at all times during the session. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> BASIC NEEDS: We will ensure the soft area is available to children in pre-school at all times for rest during the pre-school session. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> BASIC NEEDS: Photographic evidence submitted to the inspector on 7th December 2021.
Summary Comment	The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on 7 th of December 2021, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 19 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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: - When the inspector arrived at the preschool, and throughout the inspection process the external doors were kept locked to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent a child leaving the premises unsupervised. - The children were adequately supervised throughout the preschool session both in the indoor and outdoor environments. - The equipment and materials within the preschool room were maintained in a good state of repair, with regular cleaning and sanitising of equipment taking place in line with the services covid 19 policy response plan. - Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children. INFECTION CONTROL: - A designated isolation area was identified by an adult, which contained Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the event of a child or adult becoming unwell while attending the service. - Pedal operated bins were in use throughout the preschool. - Tissues were available throughout the preschool service.
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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- Warm running water was available in a hand wash sink within the preschool room and in the sanitary accommodation. Children were observed to wash their hands prior to meal times, after playing outside and after cleaning their noses. - Hand sanitiser was provided in dispensing units at entry and exit points in the preschool room.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: One window within the preschool room had not been fitted with a restrictive device. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection report (20/09/2018) where nine windows did not have a restrictive device fitted, this window is in addition to the nine other windows. It is acknowledged that the designated person in charged explained that the preschool room layout had changed since the last inspection.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: Newly fitted safety device attached to the window on 10th November 2021. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: Window checks are now included in the daily risk assessment checklist to ensure the window devices are closed at all times during the pre-school session. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> GENERAL SAFETY: Photo submitted to the inspector on the 10th of November 2021.
Summary Comment	The actions outlined in the service's Corrective & Preventive Action (CAPA) plan together with the associated documentary evidence submitted to the Inspectorate on 10th of November 2021, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 23 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.