

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH035					
Name of Service:	Coole Kids Montessori					
Address of Service:	Coole Garadice Kilcock Co. Meath					
Email Address:	cboycebrennan@gmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Clare Boyce					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	1	4	0	1	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		17	PM		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre Commons Road Navan Co. Meath					
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	Catherine Tunney 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	Coole Kids Playgroup Pre-school is a privately operated Early Years' Service, located in a rural area in Co. Meath. The childcare service provides a sessional service to children aged from 2 years to 6 years and operates from 09.30hrs to 12.30hrs. A school aged service is presently in operation from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. The afternoon ECCE sessional service is presently not in operation. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE).
Premises	The pre-school is facilitated in a converted premise at ground floor level. The service comprises of two rooms and children's sanitary accommodation. The outdoor play area is located to the rear of the pre-school.
Staffing	The registered provider and one staff member are employed in the service. The two staff members hold a major award in Early Childhood Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
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 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

- (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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and was present for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) There was no change in staffing since the last inspection where the staff files met the requirements of Regulation 9(2)(a),(b),(c) & (d); these records were not required to be reinspected.
- (4) The staff members held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Compliance Information:

- (1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on arrival of the inspector on the 14th January 2022.
- (3) Two staff members were present and cared directly for the 17 children present aged between 2 years 5 months to 6 years.

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:

The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service, taking cognisance that the time spent by the inspector in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BASIC NEEDS:

- The children's basic care needs were met on the day of inspection. The staff members were attentive to the children's needs. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence. Assistance was provided as required.
- The snack on the day of inspection consisted of a variety of healthy small sandwiches and fruit pieces prepared by parents. Snack time occurred in the outdoor area, it was unhurried and a social occasion where the children chatted about their ideas. Children who were slow eaters were able to carry on enjoying their snack while the other children moved on to other activities.
- A quiet area beside the book area was available for children to rest or have quiet time.
- A focus on outdoor play was noted, children enjoyed the time on a motorbike, and ride on cars. The children availed of outdoor play time and were observed running, playing in the large construction area and enjoying ride on toys.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Supporting Relationships Around Children

- Positive interactions between the adults and children were noted. The adults were attentive and kind to the children and the children approached the adults for attention as required. There was a relaxed atmosphere and the children appeared confident in the routine of their day. Children were observed playing in both the indoor and outdoor environments. A variety of play material and equipment offered the children opportunities to play together, such as tabletop activities, arts & crafts, Montessori play, construction, book and story time. The adults were actively involved in the children's learning and play.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The two care rooms were bright, and walls were decorated with the children's art, friendship tree and a family wall. The smaller care room was used for arts and crafts activities.

There was a variety of play equipment and material available to promote the health, welfare and development of children. The play materials were accessible to promote independent access by children.

The defined interest areas indoors included the small world area, Montessori equipment area, imaginative play home corner area with support equipment, books beside the rest area and an arts and crafts room. Equipment in the outdoor play area included a large construction area, wall mounted sensory play material, one motorbike and 2 ride on cars. Additionally, two small structures/ houses contained spare equipment/ material and the children had access to one of the houses as they wished.

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:

The registered provider ensured all reasonable measures were put in place following reopening of the service to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending such as;

Infection Control:

- The registered provider had completed a self-assessment checklist regarding COVID-19 guidelines to help identify the works necessary to ensure the safety of the children and adults attending the service. The service Covid 19 policies and procedures were available for review. Staff were informed in relation to the management of a suspected COVID -19 case.
- The standard of cleaning in the care rooms was satisfactory.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- Hand washing was carried out at recommended times such as before snack after personal care and prior to leaving the service.
- Warm running water was available in the children's sanitary area, along with a supply of liquid soap, paper towels and foot operated bins.
- A supply of personal protective equipment was available such as, a supply of gloves, aprons, and masks.
- Windows were opened to allow fresh air to flow through.

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:	(2) (a) and (b) The first aid box available in the service was suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous locations on the premises and were available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.
Non-Compliance Information:	(1) The registered provider did not ensure a person trained in paediatric first aid was available to the children attending the pre-school service. An up to date first aid certificate was not provided in respect of the two staff members.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	A certificate of completion of the First Aid Responder training was submitted to the inspectorate on the 4 th May 2022.
Summary Comment:	The response from the registered provider has been accepted. The non-compliance in relation to Regulation 25 has been addressed.

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) (a) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 11th January 2022. (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 14th December 2021 respectively. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.
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Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information:	The registered provider ensured the pre-school service had a valid insurance certificate with an expiry date of 28 th February 2022.
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