

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO039					
Name of Service:	Little VIPs Playschool					
Address of Service:	Carnaleck, Lavagh, Ballymote, Sligo, F56 EK70.					
Email Address:	vipscarnaleck@hotmail.com					
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Louise Connolly					
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒			
Date of Inspection:	1	7	0	2	2	2
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	8	PM	-		
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Office, Child and Family Agency, 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	Little VIPs Playgroup is a community-based preschool that was originally founded in 2005. The setting is rural and is located in Carnaleck, a townland 7km west of Ballymote town and about 4km from the village of Cloonacool. The play-based service provides a morning sessional service from 9:30 to 12:30, Monday to Friday, for a maximum of 22 children aged between two and six years of age.
Premises	The building is a conversion of the old Carnaleck national school which was built in 1937. There are two outdoor play areas, and area to the front and side of the premises and a grassed area to the rear of the premises. The pre-school is based in one large room which can be divided into two areas using a folding partition wall. There are two sanitary facilities located off the playroom, one is for staff use and one is for children's use.
Staffing	There are three staff employed to work in this community childcare service. All staff hold a minimum level 5 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 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) The service had a named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection. A sample of attendance records reviewed found that the designated person in charge or deputy was available at all times when the service was in operation. (2) There were 3 adults working in the service at the time of the inspection. The vetting files for two adults had been reviewed upon the previous inspection (14/06/2019) therefore have not been reviewed at this inspection. Of the one adult files reviewed the following were available or not required: (a) Two written validated references from a past employer in particular the most recent employer for on adults. (c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for one adult. (4) Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework or an equivalent qualification was available for the one adult.
Non-Compliance Information:	(4) (d) International police vetting for the one staff member that had resided outside of the State for a period greater than six months as an adult was not available.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> Police vetting was applied for. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> Police vetting is now stored on file. Staff files will be checked prior to employment in the service. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Evidence of police vetting submitted to the inspector.
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 the 16 th of March 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 9 has been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 11 -Staffing Levels

(1) <i>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.</i> (3) <i>Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a <u>sessional pre-school service</u> 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.</i> (8) <i>Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—</i> (c) <i>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.</i>	
Compliance Information:	(1) The adult child ratio for children attending a preschool service on a sessional basis is 1 adult to 11 children. There were 8 children in attendance on a sessional basis on the day of the inspection. (3) There were 8 children in total attending the service being supervised by the registered provider. The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times throughout the inspection. The children in attendance on the day of inspection were aged between 2 years 8 months to 4 years 10 months.

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 service. The preschool children bring in their snack and drinks from home, which was eaten at morning snack time at 11am. Water was available to the children throughout the preschool session. Personalised placemats were in use at snack time. Adults sat with the children at snack time, snack time was calm and relaxed with children and adults engaging in conversation. When children finished their snack, while waiting on others to finish they could have a choice to take out a toy to the table to listen to a story read by an adult.
- Children were encouraged to use the toilet by themselves, with assistance provided by the adults where required.
- Aprons were provided to the children for messy play activities, with spare clothes available to each child. Care and attention were given to the children appearances through the availability of tissues and a mirror. Outdoor clothing was available to each child and observed to be in use at outdoor play time on the day of the inspection.
- Soft wipeable mats was provided under a wooden canopy in the preschool room where children could rest if they wished to do so during the preschool session.
- Conversation between the adults and the children occurred throughout the preschool session providing for a warm atmosphere for the children where their voices and opinions were respected and heard.
- Adults responded promptly to prevent any behaviour issues arising and would use discussion among the children to address any issues and find solutions for any disagreements.
- Children were observed to move about freely between the designated play areas in their playroom as and when they wished, with resources and play equipment on low level shelving and accessible to them at all times.

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

- A keyworker person is in place within the preschool room, with memory books of observations and creative activities compiled for each child.
- Adults spoke to children in a calm and respectful manner, strong relationships between the adults and children were evidenced through conversations about the child's own home life and topics of conversation that the children had an interest in.
- Several display of the children's art work was displayed on the walls in the preschool rooms to include the most recent valentine's day activities.
- Communication with parents is upon arrival and collection of the children each day and through the use of a digital messaging service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Toys and equipment were stored on low level shelving and easily accessible to the children. Tables and chairs were at adequate height for the age and stage of the children.
- Children's artwork was displayed in the preschool room.
- The indoor play room was set up in designated areas such as; areas for painting, small world play, large construction play, imaginary play, dress up, rest area, tabletop activities, jigsaw area, chalkboard and a sand play area were provided.
- Resources and materials used by the children were in a good state of repair and easily cleanable.
- Two outdoor areas are provided for children's use, one to the side and front of the premises and one to the rear. The area to the rear was a grass area with goal posts available for the children's use. The area to the front and side of the premises' was set up with a slide, planting, a mud kitchen, chalkboard, water and sand play, seesaws, a play house, tyres and boards for balancing. A covered area was also available in this outdoor area, allowing opportunities for outdoor play in inclement weather. Children were observed to play outdoor on the day of inspection, and wore appropriate outdoor clothing such as welly boots, coats, hats and overalls.

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:

- Upon the inspectors arrival to the preschool service, external gates and entrance door were secured which prevents any unauthorised access to the building or a child leaving the premises unsupervised.
- The children were adequately supervised at all times throughout the inspection process.
- The resources and play equipment used by the children were maintained in a clean and hygienic manner, with up-to-date cleaning records for the preschool room.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	- A designated area was identified should a child or staff member become unwell while attending the preschool service. - Warm running water, hand soap, paper towels and a pedal bin was provided in the children's sanitary accommodation. - Pedal bins and hand sanitiser was placed at appropriate location within the preschool room. ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION: - The person in charge explained that no child currently attending the service requires medication. FIRE SAFETY: - Fire exits were kept free from obstruction throughout the inspection.
Non-Compliance Information:	GENERAL SAFETY: - There were two pest control boxes placed along the wall, under radiators in the preschool room. These were accessible to children and could pose a risk of harm to the children. - One radiator placed next to a children's floor play area, exceeded the maximum temperature of 50°C therefore posing a risk of injury to a child. - The door from the entrance hall into the preschool room, had one cracked pane of glass therefore posing a risk of injury to a child.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: - Contacted pest control company and received an email stating pest boxes are nontoxic. - The person in charge will check temperature on the radiators on a daily basis and will record. - Glass was purchased from a glass company and the glass was replaced. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> GENERAL SAFETY: - Following a service risk assessment, it has been decided that the person in charge will remove pest boxes from playschool room during the day and return to their place when children have left. Pest boxes will be placed in a plastic box with lid and placed in locked shed away from children. - Will be checked daily by person in charge. - Risk assessments will be carried out in the preschool room by the person in charge. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u>

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

	GENERAL SAFETY: 1. Copy of email received and photo evidence of pest control boxes removed during preschool operating hours. 2. Copy of temperature log sheet submitted to inspector. 3. Photos submitted to the inspector of receipt of new glass, and new pane of glass fitted.
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 the 1 st , 23 rd March and 11 th April 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliances noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 23 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service as evidenced by staff first aid training records. (2)(a) and (b) The first aid box was stored in conspicuous location on the premises, and available to the children attending the preschool service at all times.

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 firefighting 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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on 10th January 2022.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire Safety Measures

	(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in September 2019 and the fire detection and alarm system had been serviced on 31st August 2021. (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.
Non-Compliance Information:	26 (b) The firefighting equipment had not been serviced annually as required, which was demonstrated by the most recent service record dated September 2019.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> The person in charge contact the fire safety company and they came out and changed and updated the firefighting equipment. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> The firefighting service contract is annually for the service, the fire company will contact the service each year to arrange service date. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> Photo submitted of records demonstrating the service of firefighting equipment.
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 the 20th of February 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 26 has been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children

Additional Significant Risk Identified

Regulation 29 – Premises

Non-Compliance Information:	1. On the services most recent inspection in 2019, a non-compliance in relation to the absence of staff toilets was found "separate staff toilet facilities were not provided". The registered provider stated in their preventative actions to address the non-compliance "Additional toilet area to be built onto back on building which will be for staff only going forward as number of children in the service is expected to increase". The outcome of the 2019 report upon review of corrective and preventative actions and the evidence submitted to the inspector was deemed not to meet regulatory requirements, therefore formed part of the inspection at this time. Upon this inspection it was found that there was no additional toilet built on to the premises which conflicted with the registered providers statement above.
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Additional Significant Risk(s) to Children Additional Significant Risk Identified	
Regulation 29 – Premises	
	2. The toilet being used as a staff toilet had mould markings along the joint of both external walls.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u> 1. The person in charge filled in a change of circumstances form and it was sent in to registration office to reduce number of children attending so no second toilet is required. 2. The person in charge cleaned down the mold of the wall and repainted the toilet walls. <u>PREVENTIVE ACTION</u> 1. Risk assessment will be carried out by the person in charge, to prevent reoccurrence. 2. No more than 11 children are permitted to attend the playschool at any one time. <u>EVIDENCE SUBMITTED</u> 1. Photos of mould markings from wall cleaned and treated submitted to the inspector. 2. A copy of the change in circumstances emails submitted to the inspector.
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 the 29 th & 31 st of March 2022, demonstrates that the non-compliance noted at inspection pertaining to Regulation 29 have been addressed and regulatory compliance has been achieved.