

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015SO060
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Name of Service:	Teesan Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Teesan, Co. Sligo
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Eircode:	F91 AW71
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emer Johnson
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	7 November 2022
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No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84.
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Teesan Playgroup is a private sessional early years service. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years, operating from 9:30am to 12:30pm five days per week, 38 weeks per year. The service is located in a rural location, a short drive from Sligo town. The service is operating from a stand-alone, purpose-built building to the rear of a residential premises. There is one large playroom divided into three play areas, along with children's sanitary accommodation. A large outdoor play area is available to the side of the building.

Staffing

There is a total of three adults employed within the service to include the registered provider. All staff that work directly with the children hold the required Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) minimum Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education and above.

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/ premises and facilities. 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.

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

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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

It was found on previous inspection 30th January 2020 that the service was found non-compliant under Regulation 29 (e) no adult sanitary facilities. This non-compliance remained outstanding on this inspection.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 registered provider is the named designated person in charge and a named person to deputise is available as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection. A sample of the staff roster and attendance records reviewed found that the designated person in charge was available at all times when the service was in operation.

(2)

The staff files for two adults had been reviewed on the services last inspection, therefore have not been reviewed at this inspection.

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The staff file for the one adult employed since the services previous inspection was reviewed, the following was available or not required:

(a) (b)

Two written validated references from a past employer for one adult.

(c)

Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána for one adult.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as the one adults employment record detailed that they had not resided outside of the State for a period greater than six months as an adult.

(4)

Evidence of the completion of a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework was available for one adult.

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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.

(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.

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children during the inspection.

(3)

There were nineteen children attending the service, aged between three years and four years ten months being supervised by two adults.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1)

From the 22 children registered to attend the service, a total of 11 records of a preschool child were reviewed upon this inspection. The children's enrolment records contained the required information as listed under points (1) (a) to (i) above.

(3)

A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) above was open to inspection on the premises by- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child, (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and (c) an authorised person.

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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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

(4) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

(5) For the purposes of operating the pre-school service, a record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises by an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider.

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Digital attendance records which contained details of the daily attendance of each individual pre-school child from the commencement of the new preschool year were in place and available for review by the inspector.

(i) Staff rosters were available for review; alongside corresponding digital staff sign in and out records.

(j) A medication record book was available. There were no records inserted of medication administered to children while attending the preschool service. The registered provider explained to the inspector that if children required medication they would not attend and would then return to the service when they are finished their medication.

(k) An accident, injury or incident record book was available for review. There were no records inserted for this preschool year. Past records reviewed included details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child while attending the service. Each record was completed and signed by staff who witnessed the accident, injury or incident, and signed by the registered provider and the parent.

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(3)

The records referred to in paragraph (1) and paragraph (2)(a) were open to inspection by the inspector.

(4)

A record referred to in paragraph (1) was open to inspection on the premises by a parent or guardian of a child but only in respect of information concerning that child.

(5)

A record referred to in paragraph (1) was open to inspection on the premises by an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider.

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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

Basic needs:

Snacks consumed by the children are provided by the service, with a variety of fruit and crackers with drinks of water available each day. Snack time on the day of the inspection included birthday celebrations for two children, with a chocolate rice krispie cake as a treat to celebrate the special occasions. The adults engaged in conversations with the children throughout snack time. A jug with drinking water is available to children throughout the preschool session.

The children were encouraged to use the toilet by themselves with help provided by the adults where children needed or requested support. Appropriate handwashing practises by the children were observed to be carried out after using the toilet and before snack time. Aprons were available for messy play if required.

A rest area was available in the preschool room with soft mats and cushions providing a cosy rest area should a child wish to rest during the preschool session.

The children were observed to be consistently engaged in activities throughout the inspection. Children were observed to choose what types of play they wanted to take part in and to work closely with adults where help was needed. Activities such as home corner play, jigsaw building, and floor play activities were observed to be keen interests on the day of the inspection.

The adults working with the children demonstrated a positive attitude towards the children and each other throughout the preschool session. The adults were observed to be softly spoken and addressed each child by name. There were no disagreements observed among the children, with the children observed to play both alone and in larger groups with strong bonds of friendships observed.

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Supporting relationships:

The children were observed to be familiar with the routine in the preschool session and were observed to eagerly tidy up after play time to prepare for circle time.

The children were observed to have confidence in their play environments and demonstrated strong attachments with the adults who care for them.

Communication with parents is a mixture of face-to-face conversations and through the use of a digital application.

Physical and material environment:

The tables and chairs were suitable for the age of the children attending the preschool service. All materials and resources for children's use were on low level shelving and easily accessible to the children.

The preschool environment was laid out in a variety of designated play areas. Three main play areas were in place to include two carpeted areas and one area with lino floor covering. The lino area had creative activities and resources for children's use, this area is also used for snack times. The middle section was predominantly a role play area with a play shop, home corner, baby dolls and accessories. The larger carpeted room at the front of the building allowed for many opportunities of small world play, floor play and table top activities.

The service was bright and inviting with appropriate child posters displayed on the walls. A family tree and a birthday display alongside an autumn themed board and a large group finger painting autumn tree was on display in the preschool.

The outdoor play area is located just off the main play room, with grass and concrete ground surfacing. Tyres with sand, a digging pit with soil, planting areas, a water tray, a play kitchen and a climbing frame were some of the designated areas of play in the outdoor area. Ride on trikes, trucks and footballs were also available for the children use.

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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 at the service the main entrance door was secured which prevented unauthorised access, or a child leaving the service unsupervised. Fire exits remained free from obstruction throughout the inspection. Blind cords were adequately secured. Floor coverings in the indoor play room was observed to be in a good state of repair. Cleaning products were stored on high shelves out of the reach of children.

Play equipment and resources were observed to be maintained in good condition

The outdoor play area is secured through a variety of wooden and metal fencing, with a heavy wooden gate dividing the play area and the driveway leading to the service.

Infection Control:

Pedal bins, thermostatically controlled warm water, hand soap and paper towels were available in the children's sanitary accommodation. Handwashing practises were observed after children used the toilet and prior to snack time. Children were served their snack on suitable plates, with age-appropriate cups to drink from.

The preschool environment was observed to be maintained and presented in a clean and hygienic manner.

Administration of Medication:

Adequate records and individual care plans were maintained and available for review where children presented with skin or medical conditions. Detailed information was available on file, ensuring the adults caring for the children were aware of and informed of the signs and symptoms to look out for, and what to do if a child presented unwell while attending the service.

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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 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 10 October 2022.

(b)

There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced in February 2022.

(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

- (b)
- Records available for review was a "handover document" for a new fire detection and alarm system installed in October 2021. There were no records available to demonstrate that the fire detection and alarm system has been serviced on an annual basis as required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The provider contacted a company to service the Fire Detection and Alarm System. An initial survey by the new company took place on 07 December 2022. Following on from this site survey, a full service of the Fire Detection and Alarm system will take place once the service agreement has been finalised.

The Service Agreement entered into with the new company will include six monthly scheduled service appointments to ensure that the service has up-to-date records in line with current regulations.

Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence of a certificate of site survey inspection carried out on 07 December 2022.

Evidence of the certification of inspection carried out dated 09 January 2023.

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Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative measures along with the evidence submitted for the non-compliance found on the day of the inspection in relation to regulation 26 (b) have been reviewed, and regulatory compliance has been achieved.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(e)

There were no adult sanitary facilities in the service. It is acknowledged that adult sanitary facilities were available in a dwelling house beside the premises, and that the registered provider has recently completed a grant application to install adult sanitary facilities on the premises.

This non-compliance was found upon the services last inspection in 2020.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

An application has been made by the provider to the Building Blocks – Improvement Grant in order to obtain the necessary funds to install adult sanitary facilities within the setting. The provider will follow up with the application for the grant monies and ensure that all necessary documentation has been furnished in order to satisfy the requirements of the grant and thus ensure that the adult sanitary facilities can be installed at the earliest juncture.

Supporting documentation submitted

Extract from Building Blocks – Improvement Grant application detailing the services requirement for funds in order to install adult sanitary facilities.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative measures along with the evidence submitted for the non-compliance found on the day of the inspection in relation to regulation 29 (e) remains outstanding pending works to be completed. The registered provider informed the inspector that when works have been completed, they will submit the evidence to the inspectorate. This will be reviewed upon the services next inspection.