

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD089			
Name of Service:	An Tigín Draóichta Montessori			
Address of Service:	Logleagh, Ballysaggart, Lismore, Co. Waterford			
Eircode:	P51 EAHY			
Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead Hennessy Walsh			
Service type:	Sessional, Childminder			
Date of Inspection:	04/04/2024			
No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Waterford Community Services Cork Road Waterford			
Inspection undertaken by:	M. Ryan			
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			

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

An Tigin Draíochta is located on the outskirts of the rural village of Ballysaggart, approximately 10 kilometers from Lismore in west county Waterford. The northern aspect of the house was designed for the intention of facilitating a sessional and childminding service. There are two dedicated pre-school rooms, nappy changing and child friendly toilet facilities. A large proportion of the garden has been designed to offer a variety of outdoor play opportunities for children attending the service. The childminding service operates from 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs and the Early Childhood Care and Education programme (ECCE) from 9:30hrs to 12:30hrs Monday to Friday.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner/manager and part of the staff compliment. The service employs one extended family member.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels.

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 17 – Information for parents.

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child.

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 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.

Acknowledgments

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

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, -

- (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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 was the designated person in charge. The service also had a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) At all times during the inspection the registered provider was on the premises.
- (2)
- On review of the staff files, there was no change in the staff since the last inspection on 18 June 2021, and all staff files were compliant on review at the last inspection.
- (c) Garda vetting for both staff had been rechecked in the last three years.
- (4) Both childcare staff working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6. Quality Qualification Ireland (QQI). The inspector observed that there was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

- (1) A childminder shall ensure that-*
- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,*
 - (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and*
 - (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*
- (2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) On the morning of inspection there were 3 children aged 3 to 5 years of age being cared for by 2 staff.

On the afternoon of the inspection, there were 3 children aged 3 to 5 years of age being cared for by 2 staff.

(b) Not applicable as there were no children under the age of 15 months in the care of the childminder.

(c) The childminder used a landline and mobile phone for telephone communication.

(2)

Not applicable as there were no children under the age of 15 months in the care of the childminder.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) (b) A childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency

Compliance Information

(8)

(c) There were two staff on the premises at all times on the day of the inspection. The childminder informed the inspector that in a situation where she was on her own a family member was available at all times and living in the village to assist.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)
The three child records of the children on the day of the inspection were reviewed under Regulation 15 1 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) were available in respect of each of the three children attending. These were recorded on template record sheets. It was observed that all sections of the forms were completed. Each of the children's records had written parental consent from parents or guardians for appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The service had a parent handbook that contained the following information as required under the regulation 16(1) (a-g)

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor.
- (b) details of the type of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services.
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service.
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service.
- (e) the facilities available.
- (f) the opening hours and fees.
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements of the service were maintained in accordance with regulation. The service had communicated the policies, procedures and statements to parents by making available a hard copy of these in a designated folder on the premises. Digital copies were also available on request.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) Regulation 19 was assessed through direct observation, review of records and discussion with staff. The following was observed in relation to providing care and activities for the children attending the service.

The registered provider operated a sessional and childminding service. On the day of the inspection the sessional children were on Easter holidays and the childminding service was in operation. The registered provider's home was a dormer bungalow which on approximately one acre of land. The registered provider had a large sized playroom onto the side of her home with toilets and a kitchenette area. This room opened onto a second playroom which in turn opened onto the dining and kitchen area of the house.

The inspector was warmly greeted by the registered provider, the second staff member and the children on arrival. The atmosphere in the main playroom was pleasant, cosy and homely which was further enhanced by the large windows that provided extensive natural daylight and sunshine into the room.

The registered provider stated that the ethos of the service as documented in the statement of purpose that 'Tigín Driaoícha strives to provide a safe stimulating friendly environment with a programme that nourishes, enhances and grows all the developmental needs of children entrusted in her care.'

On the day of the inspection the children were observed sitting around the child sized table playing with freshly made playdough while the registered provider sat with the children encouraging conversations about what they were making.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Children were observed around 11.30am going down for the routine nap in the second room off the main playroom, two children used stackable beds and the third child's preference was for a cot. The room was made conducive to sleep with blackout blinds and soothing music. All three children were observed to adjust seamlessly to this transition with the gentle support of the second staff member.

The registered provider spoke of the importance of child-led play and a rhythm to the child's day for the overall wellbeing of the children. Children woke gradually at their own pace and the registered provider was observed cradling and speaking softly with each child until they were fully awake.

The rest period was followed by a nutritious lunch, this food was provided by parents and guardians from home. These meals were observed to be meat pasta dishes and beef stew.

All play equipment both indoors and outdoors was child friendly. There was shelving built into the design of the room and a large box window seat with large cushions which was popular with the children for relaxing on. The children were observed to be content and at ease in these surroundings. The double doors from the main playroom led to the external play area and registered provider's garden.

The entire outdoor space was rich in opportunities for children. The grassed area had plenty of space for children to run and play ball games. There was ample child and adult outdoor seating available especially in a shaded area with overhanging mature trees. The tarmacadam was suitable for ride on tricycles, bicycles and scooters. A graveled corner complete with small plants and numerous fairy doors. There was a large sand pit, and an additional area was sectioned off for the younger children with a 'hide house' and slide. Large balance beams were a new addition since the last inspection.

A new addition to the service were a range of books with bird song calls. The registered provider spoke of her interest in nature and how she felt exposure to nature was beneficial for children in their early years. The registered provider's home and service was situated on part of the farmland. There was a variety of pet animals located in near proximity to the house. For example, there were two pet pigs, two pet goats, rabbits, hens and dogs, all housed safely in separate runs and enclosures.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

There was documentation available to verify that both staff had current first aid responder training FAR.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped wall mounted first aid bag in the service.

(b) The first aid bag was suitably accessible and available in the pre-school room.

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 record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill took place on the premises on 7 March 2024.
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were maintained. It was recorded that fire equipment and smoke alarms was last checked 21 December 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure with details of the measures to be taken in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall in hall way.