

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WH027
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Name of Service:	Sarsfield Childcare Project
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Address of Service:	Sarsfield Community Centre, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
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Email Address:	clonbruskmanager@acsc.ie
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Name of Registered Service Provider:	Mr. Sean Quilty
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Type of service registered:	Part Time	☒
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Date(s) of Inspection:	0	3	1	2	2	0	2	0
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	4	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Unit, St. Lomans Campus, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.
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Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. C O' Connor Hughes
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health, Welfare and Development	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	This part time service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. The age range of the children enrolled in the service is from 2 years and 8 months to 4 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 09:00 and 13:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service is based in Sarsfield Community Centre consisting of a playroom and kitchen located in Athlone, Co Westmeath. There is an outdoor garden at the back of the service.
Staffing	There were two adults present including the designated person in charge on the 03.12.2020 working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work directly with children.
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. 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 co-operation of the designated person in charge, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

- (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.*
- (7) *A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*
- (a) *the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

Compliance Information:

(2) (a)(b)(c)(d)

Not applicable as the designated person in charge stated there were no new staff employed in the service since the last inspection on the 27.09.2018.

(7)(a)

Systems in place were reviewed and indicated that employees have been provided with the relevant information required, including training in relation to the specific updated policies and procedures of the service.

Staff had completed training on Infection Prevention and Control on the 10.09.2020 provided by the service manager.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	The designated person in charge ensured that the required written policies procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place in the service. The following policies and procedures were reviewed; 1. Infection control policy updated with Health Protection Surveillance Centre guidance including the following; • Cleaning schedules. • Protocol in relation to mouthed toys. • Infection control measures. • Procedure for hand washing. • Procedure for cleaning and infection control. 2. Risk Management policy updated with COVID 19 information and a COVID 19 Incident Plan. 3. Completed TUSLA self-assessment checklist. 4. Procedure for drop off and collection of children attending the service. Evidence reviewed demonstrated that staff training had taken place. The two staff members had signed the policy and procedure documents. The designated person in charge was the lead staff COVID 19 representative. Evidence indicated that a letter was written to parents updating them of the new COVID 19 protocols and given to the parents by hand.
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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*
- (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) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection. (2) There were 4 children attending the service being supervised directly by 2 adults at the time of inspection. One play pod was in operation in the pre-school room.
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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:

(1)(a)

SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

There is minimal staff turnover in this service. A key person system was in operation to help promote emotional security for each child attending the service. Staff were observed to be familiar with each child and their likes and dislikes. Staff sat with children at lunch time promoting conversation and interactions. Staff were observed to be positive towards the children in their care evidenced by soft language tones, eye contact, positive praise given on completion of a task and the use of children's individual names during activities. Children were observed to make choices of what toys and activities they wanted to play with supported by staff.

The partnership with parents is maintained through a verbal handover on collection and a one to one meeting with parents as required.

PHYSICAL & MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The pre-school room was bright, colourful and interesting and equipped with low level tables /chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the children. Areas of interest included a home area, construction area, a cosy rest area with a Christmas tree, a hand painted fire place and reading books. Materials included dolls, buggies, farm animals, blocks, bricks, shapes, jigsaws, paint, paper and crayons. The outdoor garden was pleasant with shrubs planted and an adult bench available. Toys and equipment were stored in a shed and taken out for outdoor play by staff as required.

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:

The entry to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. A perspex stand was in place at the front entrance. This enables a staff member to communicate with the parent and the child enters the service using a child sized opening in the stand.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents and hand sanitiser.

INFECTION CONTROL:

There was an infection prevention and control policy available to inform practice that included detailed cleaning schedules, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and practices for isolation of a child or adult in the event of either displaying symptoms of COVID 19.

Documentation was reviewed demonstrating attendance of staff and children for contact tracing by the public health department if required.

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable and cleaning schedules were available and reviewed.

Adequate supplies of hot water, hand paper towels and soap was available at the sink in the pre-school room. The water temperature recorded was 33.8 degrees Celsius. Children were observed washing their hands after activities and before lunch supervised by staff. Hand sanitiser in a wall mounted unit was available at the front entrance to the service and in the pre-school room.

Personal protective equipment that included aprons, face masks, hand sanitiser and gloves were available. A room was identified for isolation of a child or person feeling unwell.

The pre-school room and sanitary accommodation were ventilated with windows open. Food operated pedal bins were noted in the pre-school room for personal and other waste products and in the sanitary accommodation.

SAFE SLEEP:

Children were attending the service on a sessional basis and did not require sleep at the time of the inspection.