

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WW234							
Name of Service:	Global Garden Preschool							
Address of Service:	St Killians Family Centre, La Touche Road, Greystones, County Wicklow.							
Email Address:	ciara@naionra.org							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ciara Watson							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional	☒						
Date of Inspection:	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM	13		PM	N/A			
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.							
Inspection undertaken by:	M Condon							
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.

Description of Service	Global Garden Preschool is a sessional service which is one of four services operated by the registered provider. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 2 years and 8 months and 6 years of age. The registered provider operates the service for 38 weeks of the year, Monday to Friday from 8.50am to 12.20pm.
Premises	The service operates from an adapted room located in a parish centre. A sanitary area for use by the children is adjacent to the room. The outdoor area is located at the front of the premises.
Staffing	There are three staff employed to provide care and education to the children in the service. The registered provider is not directly involved in the care of the children but provides administrative support.
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. 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 inspector spends 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 cooperation of the registered provider, manager, area manager 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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a)
The manager was the designated person in charge of operating the service and a named adult was available to assist in the event of an emergency.
- (b)
The manager was on the premises at the time of arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Three new adults were employed since last inspection.

(2)(a)
Five written and validated past employer references were available for three adults.

(b)
One written and validated reference was available for one adult from a source other than a past employer.

(c)
The required Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the three new adults employed.

(d)
International Police vetting was available for two adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months as an adult.

(4)
Two adults present held major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at National Framework for Qualifications. One adult had a letter of eligibility issued by the Minister.

(6)(a)
Not applicable as no adult present had signed a retirement declaration.

(6)(A)
One adult was employed pursuant to the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

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.*
- (8) *Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
 (c) *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.*

Compliance Information:	(1) Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service. (3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were three adults present with thirteen pre-school children on the day of Inspection. (8)(c) Not applicable as this service does not operate single-handedly.
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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) Basic Needs: • There was a healthy eating policy in place which was evident in the healthy lunch provided by parents. Children had access to drinking water at all times and were given plenty of time to eat at snack time. • Children were supported and encouraged to be independent with using the toilet but were supervised appropriately and assistance given as necessary. • Children were given opportunities to make choices as to which activities they wished to do and were supported in their choice. • All pre-school children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the service and outdoors.
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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Physical and Material Environment:

- The pre-school was well-ventilated. Low level tables and chairs were available.
- There was a suitable and comfortable rest area beside the library available to the children.
- Toys were within easy reach for the children. They were clean, in good condition, age appropriate and in working order. Examples of some of the toys and equipment available were jigsaws, coloured beads and various building blocks, paints, colouring pencils, a workshop, transport toys and home corner.
- In the outdoor environment ride-on cars, bikes and scooters were available for use on a cemented area. In an adjoining area which had a grass surface children could access a low-level slide, blocks, a picnic table, a mud kitchen and some of the children were observed playing ball with the adults present.
- The adult was observed showing warmth and sensitivity towards the children in her care. One child who was unsettled was comforted by staff.

Supporting Relationships:

- Transitions observed were explained and notice given prior to a change of activity.
- There was evidence that the service worked in partnership with parents. It was stated that a verbal handover on the child's day was now brief to reduce the risk of the spread of infection, but all parents had been informed that they could keep in touch using alternative means such as email, texting and phoning.

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 outdoor play area was fenced. The main entrance to the premises was secured.
- All cleaning products were stored in the kitchen which was inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The registered provider had updated and extended the infection control policies and procedures in line with the COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. The policies and procedures were extensive and included procedures for dropping off and collecting children, guidance on not attending if symptomatic and what to do in the event of a child or adult developing symptoms while attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- The pre-school had a sanitary area with two separate toilets for use by the children. There was warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels available. A pedal operated bin was available for the safe disposal of used paper towels.
 - Table cleaning was observed before snack time.
 - Hand washing by the adult and children was observed after using the toilet and before lunch.
 - Hand sanitiser gel was available in the pre-school room and in prominent locations, inside and outside the service.
- Administration of Medication:**
- Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child.
 - Temperature reducing medication was available, in date and stored safely.
- Outings:**
- The registered provider stated that no outings are undertaken from the service.

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) An adult trained in first aid for children was present and immediately available to the pre-school children. (2)(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position next to the pre-school room. (b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school 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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 14th of October 2021. (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm dated January 2021 and August 2021 respectively. (4) Notices were displayed in conspicuous positions, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.
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