

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX132
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Name of Service:	Tir na nOg Playschool
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Address of Service:	Mountgarrett Lane, New Ross, Wexford.
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Eircode:	Y34 NA02
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Murphy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Child and Family Agency, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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

This sessional early years service is situated in the town of Newross Co Wexford. The service is registered to provide a sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service provides two sessional services daily. The morning session operates from 9.00 am to 12.00 pm and the afternoon session from 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm. The service is located in a designated facility to the side of the registered provider's home. It consists of an entrance lobby, a large early years room, a kitchenette and sanitary accommodation. There are two outdoor areas for use by the children.

Staffing

There were three staff, including the registered provider present on the day of inspection. All were working directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment,

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Regulation 11 Staffing levels,
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child
Regulation 25 First Aid
Regulation 26 Fire Safety

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 provide, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

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(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation in the service it was established that the service employed four staff including the registered provider in the service. All staff files were examined on the day of inspection.

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were five written and validated reference available on file from previous employers. There was one written and validated reference available on file from a reputable source. There were two written references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was a copy of Garda vetting on file for all four staff members.

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(d)

Police vetting was not required as no employee had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4)

All staff members held a minimum of level 5 and above in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

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)

There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the early years service.

(2)(3)

During the morning session there were 18 children in the care of 3 staff.

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of staff to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 was maintained at all times during the inspection.

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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, and

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection including building with blocks and enjoying imaginative free play in the outdoor area to the rear of the service.

Staff were observed to be prompt in picking up cues that some children needed additional support in the service. For example, one child who was upset was given the choice to play independently of the other children. The child was encouraged to use the time out room in the corner of the early years room. The lighting in this room was dim with fairy lights placed across the ceiling. There was a cosy couch for children to relax on in the time out area. The child was observed a short time later coming out of the room to join their friends to continue to play.

There was a curriculum in place and observations had been carried out on individual children and evidence of their emerging interests and plans for learning were documented. There was a key worker system in place. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this was to ensure each child was supported in the service. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development. For example, children were encouraged to be independent while using the toilet and given assistance if required.

The early years room has been painted since the last inspection. The room was well resourced with a range of toys and equipment for the children's learning and enjoyment. For example, there was a variety of toys such as plastic bricks, dinosaurs, jigsaws, books and art equipment stored on easily accessible shelves throughout the service.

The outdoor area was divided in to two separate areas. The area directly beside the front door had tarmacadam for children to enjoy playing on their ride on toys. This area was well resourced with stimulating play equipment

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for the children's learning and fun. The second area was a grassed area to the rear of the service. This area has been extensively developed for the learning and fun for the children attending the service.

There was a roofed outdoor classroom which enabled the children to be outside even if it was raining. The room was resourced with an extensive collection of play equipment for the children such as art materials and small world figures. There was a series of small wooden houses to stimulate imaginative play. There was a tent which children could also play in.

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 entrance door was secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. The front door was secured by a lock. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. The large outdoor area to the rear and front of the service was safe, suitable, and secure. The service was observed to be in good repair with no obvious maintenance work required.

Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. There were no maintenance requirements observed on the day of inspection. There was warm thermostatically controlled water available in all wash hand basins in the service. There was liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal bins available throughout the service. The children were supported with washing their hands before lunch, after using the toilet and after messy play.

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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 a person trained in first aid immediately available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the early years 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 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

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in the service on 26 May 2023.

(b)

There was a record stating the smoke alarm was last checked in June 2023 and firefighting equipment was last serviced in November 2022.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance hallway of the service