

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH205						
Name of Service:	Tir na nÓg Highscope						
Address of Service:	Balreask, Trim Road, Navan, Co Meath. C15 FC2C						
Email Address:	phylgeraghty@gmail.com						
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Phyllis Geraghty						
Type of Service Registered:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Sessional</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
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Date of Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table>	1	8	0	6	2	1
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No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>21</td> <td>PM</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	AM	21	PM			
AM	21	PM					
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath						
Inspection undertaken by: Title:	Anne Marie Cunningham Early Years Inspector						

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety
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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



Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.
REF: EYIRIRSESS03-2017 : RN 11: Nov 2020
1.0

Description of Service	Tir na nÓg Highscope preschool is operating a sessional service. The service can accommodate up to 22 pre-school children attending at any one time. The operating hours are 09.00am to 12.00pm. The age range catered for is 2 years to 6 years.
Premises	The service consists of a care room and sanitary accommodation in the adjoining hall. The outdoor area is available to the back of the premises.
Staffing	There are four staff employed in the service including the registered provider and two AIM support workers.
Methodology	<p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information obtained through examination of documentation • Direct observation • Discussion with relevant staff <p>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.</p> <p>The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.</p> <p>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.</p>
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff 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.
- (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 review of the staff files and a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there was two new members of staff employed since the last inspection. Given that the staff members were found to have been appropriately vetted on the last inspection the inspector reviewed the files of the new staff member on this inspection. The following was found in respect of the new staff members:

- (2)(a) Two references were available from past employers.
- (b) Two references were available from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer reference.
- (c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was available for the two staff members.
- d) Police vetting was not required as the staff members had not lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) Both staff members held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Compliance Information:

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.
- (3) The adult/child ratio was correct;
Four staff members (two AIM support workers) were present with 21 pre-school children (aged between 3 years and 5 years). The registered provider was also present.

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) The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service. The time spent by the inspector in the premises was reduced in order to minimise risk, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:
- Basic needs of Infants and Children**
- A healthy nutritious snack in line with the healthy eating policy of the service was provided for the children attending the service by their parents.
 - Children's personal care and cleanliness was attended to by the adults in a timely fashion. Tissues were freely available in the room.
 - The children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to the age and stage of development, including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings.
 - A change of clothes and wet outdoor gear was available, if required.
- Supporting Relationships around the Children**
- There was a notably warm and welcoming atmosphere in the setting.
 - Relationships between staff and the children were extremely supportive, reciprocally warm and consistently positive.
 - An appropriate daily routine was in place which allocate times for child – initiated play and learning and adult planned and facilitated activities.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

- Transitions were clearly announced and signaled by staff. Children were given time to complete activities at their own pace before joining the next activity. This approach respected the children’s learning engagements and resulted in a smooth flow in the routine.
- Snack time was a very social event with animated conversations and discussions. Staff encouraged children to be independent and to develop self-care skills at every opportunity.
- Monthly newsletters were sent to parents and communication also by social media and at drop off and collection, if required.
- Children were observed happily engaged in preparing father’s day cards. Praise and encouragement were given by staff assisting the children with completion.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The layout of the playrooms and the presentation of the resources in the playrooms enabled the children to choose their activities based on their natural sense of enquiry and interests.
- The physical and material environment supported and promoted the children’s welfare and development. A wide range of defined interest areas were available, such as child initiated play was enabled through the provision of resourced home corner areas, construction areas, arts and craft areas with art easel, sand table, and library areas.
- Tables were waist high and low level shelving was available to assist the children to select and replace items of interest independently.
- The outdoor area was available to the back of the service, equipment included sand play, mud kitchen, books, slide and ride on cars.

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:

Infection Control

- There was a constant supply of thermostatically controlled hot water to support effective handwashing practices. There were several hand sanitizing dispensers positioned around the service, at the entrance, and in the playroom.
- Perishable items for children’s lunch are stored in the fridge.
- An additional sink for the children has been erected in the outdoor area to assist with handwashing during the current pandemic.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly including before lunch and after using the toilet. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed in accordance with the service's infection control policies and procedures.
- The premises play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition. Up to date cleaning schedules were on display in the service.
- A separate area, 2 metres away from other people was identified to accommodate a child showing symptoms of Covid-19. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was available if required.
- When questioned the staff were familiar with the Covid-19 incident plan and steps to be implemented should he or a child become unwell while attending the service.

General Safety:

- Safe storage was provided for cleaning agents and equipment, which were out of reach of children.
- The external doors were secured to prevent unauthorised access and unsupervised exit of a child.