

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC145
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Name of Service:	Eyeries Playgroup Ltd
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Address of Service:	Eyeries Village, Beara, Eyeries Village, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P75 CK49
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anna Sullivan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/09/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Building, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork, T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

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Description of service

Eyerries Playgroup Ltd is a community-based service which provides a sessional care to children aged from 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 09:30am to 1:00pm daily. This rural service is situated within a cabin style structure in the centre of Eyerries village on the Beara peninsula. Facilities include a large care room, sanitary accommodations toilet and an outdoor play area.

Staffing

There were four staff attached to this service including the registered provider who was not service based. The remaining three staff were present on the day and working directly with children.

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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

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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 person in charge, 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, 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

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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 has ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and the deputy person in charge were on the premises for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.
- (2) A total of four recruitment files were reviewed.
- (a) Four of the eight required written and validated references on file were from past employers.
- (b) Four of the eight required written and validated references had been provided by sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Police vetting was not required for any of the staff as they had not resided outside of the state for a period of longer than 6 months.
- (4) All staff working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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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

On the day of inspection, the following policy was examined:

- Healthy eating policy.

The above policy was observed to contain the relevant details to meet regulatory compliance and guide staff in the safe care of children.

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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation with three staff working with 12 children of preschool age.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;

Compliance Information

(1)
(a) The registered provider has ensured that a Curriculum Vitae (CV) was available for all staff which included their name, position, qualifications and experience.

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) **Basic Needs:**

- The children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food during their snack on the day of inspection. Examples included fruits, yogurts, dried mango, bagels and rice cakes.
- The snack time was observed to be a relaxed time with children and staff chatting freely to each other.
- Children's water bottles were available to them at all times.
- Children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection.
- Children were prompted throughout the day to use the sanitary facilities independently, but staff were observed to offer support where needed.
- Staff were observed to communicate with children in a warm manner and in a way to help them feel safe, secure and at ease.
- The room was laid out in a way that promoted freedom of movement and choice.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day.

(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) The registered provider has ensured that there were adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors. It was observed on the day of inspection that the care room hosts a wide range of play equipment with ample numbers of resources available to children. The equipment was contained at child height making it accessible to all children. There were clearly defined areas of play including, art, construction, tabletop activities, library and a home corner. The outdoor areas were observed to be accessible to children on the day of inspection.

(b) There were adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day in the library area. This area was away from the play area and was equipped with soft furnishings to create a quiet corner for a child to rest.

(4)

(b) There was an enclosed outdoor area for children to explore throughout the day. This area was accessible directly from the care room. Through direct observation, this area appeared to be safe and secure with an abundance of play equipment. The outdoor area had a mixture of shock absorbent flooring and concrete and was securely fenced. There were opportunities for gross motor play, sensory play, risky play and imaginative play in the outdoor environment.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- Within the care room, low level units were in place to display interest items at the children's eye level.
- The materials on offer were age and stage appropriate to support various forms of play. For example, tabletop activities to support fine motor play and a dress up area to support imaginative play were available.
- The care room was equipped with ample resources and equipment.
- Equipment appeared to be maintained in a state of good repair.

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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- The external doors were secured to restrict unauthorised access.
- The doors leading into the staff sanitary accommodations and offices were kept secured and these areas were not accessible to the children.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- There were no electrical cables or flexes in reach of children.
- Blind cords had been secured.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing was observed on the day of inspection. Staff were observed to remind children to wash their hands after the bathroom, after coming inside and before mealtimes.

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- The sanitary accommodations for both staff and children were equipped with liquid soap, paper towels and hot running water. Water for handwashing was recorded at 42.9°C.
- Tables were sanitized before the children had their meal.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated.
- In the outdoor areas, sand trays not in use were covered.
- There was a routine cleaning schedule in place.
- Windows were open to aid ventilation.

Administration of Medication:

- A supply of fever reducing medication was stored safely out of reach of children and staff stated they were familiar with the procedure for the administration of medication.

Fire Safety:

- Wall tethered fire fighting equipment was available throughout.
- Fire doors observed were free from obstruction

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all staff members. However, one of these vetting disclosures was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In their written response the registered provider stated that the vetting had now been applied for.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. A copy of the submitted Garda Vetting application was submitted.

Summary Comment

Evidence of an application for garda vetting was reviewed; however, a copy of the completed garda vetting has not been submitted for the one staff member to the inspector to date. The registered provider is required to furnish the required documentation to the Inspectorate upon receipt. The noncompliance in relation to Regulation 23 remains outstanding.

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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.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training at all times available to the children. Through the inspection of staff records, it was noted that there were three staff who held in date certification. It was evident through examination of the staff roster that at least one of these adults was available at all times throughout the day.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, supervision of children was observed to be primarily by sight. The care room was sufficiently laid out to allow staff to supervise children in all areas of the room. Children who used the toilet independently were noted to be supervised by sound. Whilst playing outside, staff positioned themselves at either end of the outdoor play area to ensure that children were adequately supervised by sight.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured, with insurance for 24 children until 27 March 2027. The records detailed the category of service covered which was sessional, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.