

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015CC022 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Angel Guardian Community Pre-School CLG |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Silverpoint, Ashmount, Mayfield, Cork, Co. Cork |
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|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | T23 VHW7 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Cormac O' Connor |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 18/01/2024 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 28 | PM | 21 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate<br>Administration Building<br>St Mary's Health Campus<br>Gurrabraher<br>Cork |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | D Prendergast   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | N/A |
|---------------------------------|-----|

### Description of service

This community based, early years service first notified in 2011. While it initially provided sessional care and education, it was recently approved to offer a part time service, for children aged two to six years. Part time care options are from 8.45am to 1.45pm or from 9.00am to 2.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over 38 weeks of the year. Included within these hours are two morning sessional services; from 8.45am to 11.45am and from 9.00am to 12.00pm, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. An afternoon ECCE session operates from 12.15pm to 3.15pm.

Angel Guardian Community Pre-School CLG is located in a residential area, on the north side of Cork city and is provided from the purpose-built ground floor of an apartment complex. There are two operational care rooms, each with adjoining sanitary facilities, along with an entrance hall, an office and a kitchen. At the rear of the building, the children have the use of a designated outdoor play space, which is accessible from both care rooms.

### Staffing

There are 10 adults attached to the early years facility, including the registered provider, who is not service based. The other nine adults are involved in the direct care of the children and include two Community Employment (CE) participants and two adults employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. A relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education has been attained by each of the adults who are employed to work directly with the 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 the 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 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 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) A manager had been appointed to the early years service, along with a deputy person in charge, who could deputise in her absence.
  - (b) The person in charge was available during the inspection process, including upon the inspector's arrival.
- (2) The recruitment records of the 10 adults attached to the setting were reviewed and the following information was noted:
- (a) Of the 20 required written and validated references, 17 were from past employers.
  - (b) Three of the 20 required references had been provided by sources other than previous employers and had been validated.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 10 adults. All were in date.

(d) Police vetting was in place for the adult who had resided in another jurisdiction, while over the age of 18.

(4) Documentation on file confirmed that each of the eight adults, who were employed to work directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications. This included one CE participant who also provided relief cover. A qualification was not required in respect of the registered provider, or the second CE participant.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children, throughout the inspection period.

(2) The correct adult to child ratios were maintained on the day of the inspection, as outlined in the following tables:

Morning:

| Room Name and Age Range of Children               | Number of Children Present          | Number of Adults Present |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Butterflies<br>(3 – 4 ½ years)                    | 14 attending ECCE sessional service | 2 + 1 CE participant     |
| Caterpillars<br>(2 years and 10 months – 4 years) | 14 attending ECCE sessional service | 2 + 1 CE participant     |

Afternoon:

| Room Name and Age Range of Children | Number of Children Present   | Number of Adults Present                       |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Butterflies<br>(3 – 4 ½ years)      | 8 attending part time care   | 3 adults until 12.30pm<br>1 adult from 12.30pm |
| Caterpillars<br>(2 ½ – 4 years)     | 13<br>(5 attending ECCE sessional service, 8 attending part time care) | 2 + 1 CE staff                                 |

The person in charge was also available to provide assistance in the care rooms and to facilitate the inspection process.

(8)

(a) Observation at the time of inspection, together with review of staff rosters, demonstrated that the service was consistently operated with at least two adults present.

### 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;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(a) Curricula vitae and photo identification were on file for each of the 10 adults attached to the service.

(i) Staff rosters were in place and included details of staff breaks.

(k) Accident and incident books were maintained. A sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed and deemed satisfactory.

### 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:

- During the morning ECCE sessional service, snack time was accommodated in both care rooms shortly after 11.00am. In the Butterflies room, the children who remained at the service for part time care were observed to have a second snack at 1.00pm.
- The morning meal break was conducted in a relaxed, social environment, as the children chatted freely with one another. The adults provided cutlery and crockery as needed and assisted the children to open food packaging and containers.
- Drinking water was accessible to the children both during and outside of designated mealtimes. In the Caterpillars room, the children's reusable water bottles were stored on low shelving in the fridge and in the Butterflies room, water bottles were maintained in a large container, on a low-level worktop.
- The children were supported with self-care activities. For example, one of the adults was observed to help a child to clean their face after snack time and children were reminded to clean their noses. To assist with this practice, boxes of tissues were stored at the children's level.
- The children wore protective aprons during messy play activities, such as painting.
- Through supervision, prompts and reminders from the adults, the children were encouraged and supported to use the adjacent sanitary facilities independently. Nappy changing facilities were available to facilitate the children who required same.
- Throughout the morning, a notably calm atmosphere was evident in each care room, as the children appeared engaged and actively explored their environments. Ample space was available for the children to play and participate in various activities.

## 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-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(b) Both care rooms were equipped with suitable rest facilities. Two vinyl sofas, separated by a well-stocked bookshelf, were provided in the Caterpillars room. The Butterflies room was furnished with a similar cosy area, which also included a vinyl sofa and a bookshelf, with a variety of age and stage appropriate books. A play stand canopy with soft matting, was available as an additional rest area in this care room.

As the service had moved to providing part time care, three stackable beds and a supply of linen were held in storage, for any children who may require sleep while in attendance.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

#### Compliance Information

- The inspector was advised that the children’s parents or guardians, who provided the food for their daily snack breaks, had been given a copy of the service’s Healthy Eating policy at the beginning of the school year.
- At the time of inspection, examples of the children’s snacks included sandwiches, soda bread, wraps, buttered crackers, rice cakes, cold meats, yogurt and a selection of fruit, with water to drink.
- The person in charge confirmed that, should a child express hunger outside of the routine mealtimes, they would be facilitated to have a snack.
- It was reported that none of the children had any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

### 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) Certification of completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training was on file for two staff members.
- (2)
- (a) Two well-equipped first aid boxes were accessible; one in each care room. High-level wall hooks were used to store the first aid boxes, which ensured that they were readily accessible by adults, while out of reach of children.
  - (b) The first aid supplies were consistently available for use, if required.

### 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

- (1)
- (a) The monthly fire drills carried out at the service were recorded and maintained on file. It was noted that the most recent fire drill was dated 16 January 2024.
  - (b) Information in relation to the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. Records indicated that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 11 January 2024 and the smoke alarm was tested on 29 June 2023.
- (4) Notices which outlined the service's fire evacuation procedure were displayed in the care rooms.