

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC072			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Sparks Playschool			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Riverstick Community Centre, Riverstick, Riverstick, Co. Cork			
<b>Eircode:</b>	P43 DX99			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Hemlock			
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/05/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	n/a
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	V. McCarthy			
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Bright Sparks Playschool is a privately operated service that caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years. It provides sessional care and the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates from a room at the local community centre which is situated in a rural setting on the outskirts of Riverstick village. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 12.30 hours. There is an enclosed designated outdoor play area situated to the side of the premises.

### Staffing

There are 2 adults, including the registered provider, attached to the service. Each of the adults work directly with the children and has a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 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 provider, 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) The service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider who was the named person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 4 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 2 adults attached to the service.
- (b) Not applicable as all references were from past employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years in respect of each adult.
- (d) Not applicable as neither of the 2 adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the adults.

### 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 always working directly with the children.

(3) On the morning of the inspection there were 2 adults working directly with 14 children. The ratio of staff to children exceeded the requirement of 1:11.

### 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:

- A fridge was provided in the care room for the storage of the children's perishable food.
- The adults wiped the tables clean prior to the children sitting to eat and again after the children finished eating and left the tables.
- A supply of crockery was available on the tables for the children to use when they sat to eat their mid-morning food break.
- Handwashing by the children was carried out under the supervision of 1 of the adults, before the mid-morning break and after toileting and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and well stocked paper dispensers to facilitate hygienic hand washing and drying.
- Children's coats were stored on picture labelled individual wall hooks and their spare clothes were stored off the floor in individually labelled bags that were kept in storage containers.
- A box of paper tissues was available on a low shelf for any child who required access to a tissue to attend to their nasal hygiene. A pedal operated bin was close by so that the children could correctly dispose of the used tissues.
- There were detailed cleaning records available to the inspector for review and the inspector noted that the adults adhered to them as the premise, furniture, soft seating and play materials were all in clean and good condition.

### 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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last fire drill was carried out on 03 May 2024.
  - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment had a maintenance service during November 2023 and the wired smoke alarm was serviced on 19 January 2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the wall near the entrance door to the care room.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The services' insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of early years children covered which was 22, the start date, which was 28 March 2024, the end date, which was 27 March 2025, the category of service covered which was sessional care and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding public liability and fire and theft cover.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### Compliance Information

(c) There were 6 ceiling light bulbs and 6 high opening windows in the care room which provided both natural and artificial light. Each window could be opened to ventilate the room as necessary. During the inspection 2 of the windows were opened. The sanitary accommodation adjacent to the care room was provided with mechanical ventilation to ventilate that space. The premises was provided with electrical heaters, and these were wall mounted high out of children's reach in the care room, lobby and toilet area.

(d) The premises, furniture and equipment appeared clean and were maintained in good repair and good condition. The adults were observed cleaning, brushing, and dusting at various times throughout the inspection. There were daily, weekly and monthly cleaning schedules available for review that detailed the areas being cleaned and the frequency of the cleaning.