

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC096
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Child's Play Educare Cloughduv
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Rycourt Manor, Aherla, Cloughduv, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P14 RX27
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise O'Sullivan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	12/03/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	43	PM	42
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Stokes
<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

This private full day care service was established in 2013. It is registered to cater for children aged 0-6 years and it currently caters for children aged 12 months to 6 years of age from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday for 50 weeks of the year. The service offers full day care, part-time care, sessional care, ECCE and school age care in four care rooms. Three of the four rooms were operating on the day of inspection. The service also has a designated sleep room, sanitary areas, and a designated kitchen. The service has a large outdoor play area to the rear.

### Staffing

The registered provider is service based and operates the service with the deputy designated person in charge (manager). On the day of inspection, the registered provider and manager were not on the premises. The second deputy person in charge facilitated the inspection. There were 8 adults working directly with the children, including the deputy designated person. All adults working with children had a major award in Early Childhood care and education. In addition, there was a chef based in the kitchen.

### 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. 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 deputy 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) The registered provider was the named person in charge of operating the service.

(b) In addition to the registered provider, there was a deputy person in charge (Manager) and second deputy person in charge. The inspection was facilitated by the second designated person in charge.

(2) (a) The staff recruitment files for all 12 adults were examined as part of this inspection. When this recruitment file was reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available from 8 past employers.

(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available from 16 sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 12 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; no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period exceeding 6 months.

(4) A certificate of qualification in Early Childhood care and education at a minimum of QQI level 5 on the National Qualification framework was on file for 11 adults working directly with children, the chef had an award appropriate to their role.

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

(2) The following rooms which were in operation met the adult/child ratio,

Room	Age	Adults	Children	Ratio
Wobbler	18months to 2 years	2	10 morning, 9 afternoon	1:5
Toddler	2-3 years	2	12 children morning & afternoon	1:6
Pre-preschool	3-5 years	3	21 children morning and afternoon	1:11 am 1:8 pm

### 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

#### Basic Needs

- Adults were observed to interact and encourage/assist the children to make the meal times a social occasion, while encouraging independence. Dinner time was observed in the toddler room, where children were offered second helpings and were observed to enjoy their pasta bolognaise meal.
- The children were largely trained using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet in the pre-preschool room. In the toddler and wobbler rooms children were observed to be changed regularly.
- There was a cosy corner in the home area to provide for the children's need for rest and relaxation in each room. In addition, there was a designated sleep room for the wobblers. Some wobblers were also observed to sleep in approved floor beds in their playroom. Children from the toddler room who needed to sleep were observed to sleep on stackable beds in the empty preschool room in an established sleep routine after dinner.

- The children in the Pre-preschool room had their need for mobility met in this setting as a period of outdoor play was facilitated after dinner where the children dressed in their puddle- suits and wellies for outdoor play.
- The adults were observed to support the children to interact positively with each other, for example, with turn taking/sharing for example during music time in the toddler room, children were encouraged to share the instruments.
- There was a warm and engaging atmosphere observed throughout the three rooms in the service with adults modelling low tones and supportive engagement. Adults spoke about the use of an online application to share and communicate with parents and noted its benefits in helping children to settle in with improved parental engagement.

### 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,

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) There were adequate and suitable play facilities indoors. The indoor environment was child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out in special interest areas with materials accessible to the children. Interest areas included a creative area with arts and crafts, library with soft area; home corner; construction area, tabletop toys including small world, puzzles, threading, pegboards; imaginative area with shop and playhouse; and transport area. Child sized tables and chairs were available. Soft matting and cushions and a cushioned slide were available in the wobbler room. The outdoor area had interest areas and equipment including bikes, ride on toys, playhouses, sand play and various climbing frames with swings/ slides. The outdoor space was divided into two distinct areas, one area with impact absorbing surface and a second area in lawn to provide space for running, playing games and ball and engaging with the different playhouses/shelters and sand areas. The lawned area was not observed to be in use on the day of inspection.

(b) There were adequate and suitable facilities for a child to rest. The Wobblers designated sleep room had 7 cots for children to sleep. In addition, there were 4 approved floor beds used in the wobbler room to accommodate 9 children aged 18 to 24 months in this room. There was a supply of stackable beds that were put out in the empty preschool room for the toddlers to sleep on after dinner. Six toddlers were observed to sleep in this room, while the remaining 6 toddlers stayed in the toddler room with 1 adult. The atmosphere, noise level and ambience were observed to support restful sleep in both the designated sleep rooms and the care rooms which converted for the purposes of sleep after dinner time.

### 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:

- Blind cords were observed to be secured on the day of inspection.
- External doors and internal doors were secured.
- Storage of stackable beds was secured in a storage unit in the lobby.
- Cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible, and the sluice room was locked.
- The outdoor area was secured, and no hazards were observed.

##### Infection Control:

- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water was available for hand washing at the sinks. Soap, paper towels/electric dryers were in place. Lidded, foot operated pedal bins were available in the toilets for the disposal of nappies/paper towels.

##### Fire Safety:

- No issues with fire safety were observed. Emergency exit routes were clear. Monthly fire drill records were in place.

##### Outing:

- No outings were observed on the day of inspection. An outings policy was in place.

#### 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'.

### Infection Control:

2. Handwashing prior to dinner was not observed in the toddler room. It is acknowledged that adults wiped the children's hands with water wipes, however, handwashing is required before mealtimes to prevent the spread of infection in the setting.

### Administration of Medication:

3. A child's auto-injector pen was stored inappropriately in a first aid box in the pre-preschool room, when such medication should be stored separately to the first aid materials to prevent cross contamination.

### Safe Sleep:

4. Of the 7 cots in the sleep room, one had an ill fitted mattress which was too short for the cot and may lead to a foothold in the cot and potential for injury.
5. One of the cots had a wipeable waterproof mattress protector as is required to prevent the spread of infection, six mattress protectors were unsuitable as these were fabric domestic protectors and were not wipeable.
6. One mattress in the cot room had no protector and the foam mattress was exposed under the sheet. This may lead to the spread of infection.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action & Supporting documentation submitted.

#### General Safety

1. An updated garda vetting disclosure was sought and submitted to the Offices of the Early years inspectorate for one staff member. The registered provider has committed to checking the garda vetting disclosure dates regularly to ensure that they are within the past three years.

#### Infection Control:

2. The toddler room has introduced a handwashing routine before and after meals. A visual step by step handwashing poster is now used as an aid.

#### Administration of Medication:

- The auto-injector pen was removed from the first aid box and stored separately in the room. The storage of the auto-injector pen will be checked regularly.

### Safe Sleep:

- New waterproof mattresses were purchased for all cots. The registered provider submitted evidence on 13 March 2024 of the purchase of new mattresses and waterproof protective covers to address the issues of safe sleep in an immediate fashion and assured the inspector in writing that the ill fitted mattress would be removed immediately to address points 4,5 and 6 above.
- The mattress protectors were removed and disposed of.
- Cots will be checked regularly, and mattresses inspected.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider was assessed and meets the regulatory requirements.

## 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

- The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid was always available. Six adults were trained in FAR.
- (a)(b) The registered provider ensured that a fully equipped first aid box, was readily available/accessible.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The registered provider ensured that a record of the fire drills was maintained. The most recent fire drill was dated 1 March 2024.
- (b) The registered provider ensured a record of the number, type and maintenance of fire extinguishers and smoke alarms were maintained. This record was dated October 2023.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

There was appropriate insurance for a full day care service for 77 children, valid until 27 March 2024.