

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC116
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Crawford Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Crawford Woods, Church Hill, Glanmire, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T45 AF54
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Fenton Tutty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	08/07/2024
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<b>Date 2 of Inspection:</b>	09/07/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	45	PM	45
<b>Day 2</b>	AM	47	PM	N/A

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher 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).

### Conditions if applicable

N/A

### Description of service

Crawford Childcare is a play based, full day care service, that also offers part time and sessional care. It is registered to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years, however, it currently caters for children from the age of 6 months. A daily sessional service is provided from 9.00am to 12.00pm, over 38 weeks of the year, in conjunction with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The childcare facility is open 50 weeks of the year and daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 5.25pm.

Located in a residential area of Glanmire in Co. Cork, the service operates from a purpose built, single storey, detached premises. There are three operational care rooms, two sleep rooms and child sanitary facilities available to the children, along with directly accessible outdoor play spaces. Also included is a kitchen, an office, staff sanitary facilities and a reception area. A car park is provided at the front of the premises, to allow for the safe drop off and collection of children.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 21 staff, of whom 18 are involved in the direct care of the children. Each of these 18 adults has attained a recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education or holds a Letter of Eligibility to Practice/Letter of Qualification Recognition. The registered provider is not based at the setting and the cleaner and the service assistant do not 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 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, deputies, staff and children who were present on the days 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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) There was a designated person in charge of operating the early years service and named deputies had also been appointed, to deputise in her absence. Written evidence to this effect was clearly displayed in the entrance area.
  - (b) Two of the deputies were on duty at the service when the inspection commenced. The person in charge arrived within 15 minutes and remained onsite throughout the inspection process. Review of the staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or a deputy were on duty at all times.
  - (c) Information regarding the service's management structure was on display and clearly set out the names of the manager, deputy manager and the room leaders.

- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the 21 adults attached to the early years service were assessed and the following was established:
- (a) There were 25 written and suitably validated references on file from a past employer.
  - (b) The remaining 17 required written and validated references had been obtained from sources other than previous employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 21 staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes 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 required, available and translated where applicable, for 14 staff members who worked at the service and had access to children.
- (4) Records demonstrated that 16 of the adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications, or as recognised by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY). One adult was in possession of a Letter of Eligibility to Practice and a second adult held a Letter of Qualification Recognition. Childcare qualifications were not required in respect of the registered provider, the cleaner or the service assistant.

### 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

The service's policy on Healthy Eating was reviewed and met the requirements.

### 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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate amount of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance.

(2) Adequate adult to child ratios were observed in all care rooms, over the duration of the inspection, as follows:

Morning of 8 July 2024:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
The Exploring Room (8 months – 2 years)	16	5
The Adventure Room (1 ½ – 3 years)	18	4
The Discovery Room (3 - 5 years)	11	3

Afternoon of 8 July 2024:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
The Exploring Room (8 months – 2 years)	15	5
The Adventure Room (1 ½ – 3 years)	19	4
The Discovery Room (3 - 5 years)	11	2

Morning of 9 July 2024:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
The Exploring Room (8 months – 2 years)	14	4
The Adventure Room (1 ½ – 3 years)	20	5
The Discovery Room (3 - 5 years)	12	4

- (8)
- (a) The service was operated with at least two adults present at all times, as observed on the days of inspection and as evidenced through examination of the staff roster.

### 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 accommodated to have up to five daily meal breaks, depending on their hours of attendance; breakfast, a mid-morning snack, lunch, an afternoon snack and tea were offered.
- Rolling snack and meal breaks were facilitated, which allowed children an extended timeframe during which they could take a break from free play to eat and drink. Staff members supervised the children during this time and offered assistance as required. The younger children had opportunities to self-feed and were provided with bibs, as per the Healthy Eating policy. Children in the Discovery room were observed to assist a staff member to lay out the crockery and cutlery for lunch, before serving themselves.

- Drinking water was available to the children if they required additional fluids between meal and snack breaks; in the Exploring room, the children's drinks were stored in a basket on the worktop and were visible to them. In the two older care rooms, water bottles were maintained on low-level shelves within the children's reach.
- The inspector was informed that nappy changing was carried out approximately every two hours and as needed, throughout the day. The older children could easily access the sanitary facilities that adjoined their care rooms, as required.
- The younger children were supported to wash their hands and to clean their faces after eating.
- Each care room included a cosy area, to accommodate any child who may wish to take some time to rest and relax.
- During discussion with a staff member in the Exploring room, the inspector was advised that while the children generally followed regular nap times, they would also be accommodated to sleep outside of these times, should they display signs of tiredness.
- As part of the daily routine in the Adventure room, it was noted that in the afternoon, the care room was divided in two, to facilitate the use of stackable beds for children who wished to rest. Other children were free to continue playing outdoors during this time, or to engage with materials in another area of the care room.
- Adult sized seating was available and utilised for bottle feeding in the Exploring room.
- The layout of the care rooms afforded children the ability to move freely, as they initiated and participated in various activities. Movement between the indoor and outdoor environments was also facilitated, which allowed for children to engage in more active play and movement. Suitable outdoor clothing and footwear was worn by the children during wet weather conditions, as was observed on the second day of inspection.

### 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

- Food provision for the children’s meals and snacks was shared between the service and the children’s parents or guardians. Breakfast was provided by the service, along with a hot lunch meal, which was catered by a local supermarket and children brought their own snacks from home. Parents or guardians also had the option to provide their own food entirely, if preferred.
- On the first morning of the inspection, examples of the children’s mid-morning snacks included sandwiches, cheese, a selection of fruit and yogurts, with water to drink. The lunch meal offered at the service consisted of mashed potatoes, ham, broccoli, carrots and rice, with milk to drink.
- The inspector was informed that some of the children had food allergies or intolerances. The setting operated a nut free policy as a result and some parents opted to supply meals for their children. The deputy person in charge also advised that snack ingredients were checked, to ensure that snacks brought into the setting did not contain nuts or other relevant allergens.
- During discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that if a child became hungry between mealtimes, they would be accommodated to have a snack.

### 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:

- Unauthorised entry to the childcare facility was prevented through the use of an intercom system at the entrance door, along with an electronic keypad. The doors which provided access to the care rooms were also key pad operated.
- An enclosure of walls, fencing and gates ensured adequate security of the outdoor play environment.

- Shock absorbing surfacing or grass were available underneath outdoor equipment, such as climbing frames and slides. This created a soft fall surface for the children.
- The risk of children accessing any potentially harmful items stored in low-level cupboards, was reduced through the use of restrictive opening devices.
- Glass panelling at child height was fitted with visibility strips, which reduced the risk of a child sustaining a collision injury.
- Blind cords were tethered with suitable tension devices.
- There was safe storage of cleaning agents.
- Fire extinguishers were securely wall mounted.

### Infection Control:

- The available handwashing facilities supported hygienic handwashing and drying, which was observed before mealtimes in the Exploring and Discovery rooms. Wash hand basins were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers.
- Foot pedal operated nappy disposal bins were in use in the nappy changing areas. Single use gloves and aprons were available and utilised during nappy changing procedures and changing mats were sanitised in between use.
- Shelf labelled storage was provided for the children's nappies, wipes and barrier creams.
- Indoor spaces were well ventilated; windows and doors were open across the care rooms and there was a combination of open windows and mechanical ventilation in the sanitary facilities.
- Cots were fitted with waterproof mattresses, which helped to reduce the risk of cross infection.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to any of the children.
- Good practice was ensured in relation to the storage of prescribed medication, which was clearly labelled, in-date and maintained well out of the children's reach. Temperature reducing medication was also noted to be inaccessible to children.

### Safe Sleep:

- Both sleep rooms were fitted with air conditioning units, which facilitated the maintenance of consistent air temperatures, for sleeping children. In the sleep room adjoining the Exploring and in the second sleep room, respective air temperatures of 19.1°C and 19.7°C were recorded, which fell within the safe range of 18°C to 22°C, as recommended for children aged over 12 months.

- During an afternoon rest period in the Adventure room, the air temperature was recorded at 21.5°C, which was also within the recommended range.
- The ten-minute interval checks of sleeping children, that were carried out by staff members, had been recorded on a digital application and were available for review. These included monitoring of each child's breathing, colour and position.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exit doors were noted to be maintained free from any obstructions.

### Outing:

- An outing from the childcare facility did not take place at the time of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The Garda vetting disclosure available for one of the adults was not dated within the previous three years, in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'. It was acknowledged that, at the time of inspection, updated vetting had been applied for and was awaited.

#### Infection Control:

2. In the Adventure room, one of the children did not wash their hands, or was not reminded to do so, before eating their mid-morning snack. This increased the risk of cross infection. It was also noted that the child had been playing outdoors immediately prior to having their snack. A second child who attended the same room did not wash their hands after having their nappy changed.
3. While the service had a sufficient number of nappy changing facilities overall, one of the nappy changing units was over utilised, which increased the risk of cross infection. On the first day of inspection, a staff member advised that all 16 of the children who attended the Exploring room had their nappies changed in the adjoining nappy changing facility, which consisted of one changing station and one wash hand basin. However, 1 nappy changing unit and 1 wash hand basin are required for every 11 children in nappies. It was acknowledged that on the second day of the inspection, following discussion between the inspector and the person in charge, staff were observed to bring 3 of the 14 children to a separate nappy changing area, to have their nappies changed.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The written reply outlined that the vetting for the adult was applied for on 5 July 2024, which was the day that the three-year period had lapsed. As a preventive measure, the system in place to review vetting has now been set with new parameters, which allow more time for vetting processes to be completed.

##### Infection Control:

2. A hand hygiene training review was conducted with the relevant team member and all team members at the service. Regular reviews of hand hygiene practices are in place on induction, during practice, at team meetings and through individual support and supervision meetings. Team members that were not present between 10 and 12 July 2024, when the last review was conducted, will have training reviewed on their return to work.
3. The written response stated that team members have been instructed to use the nappy changing units according to 1:11 ratio, as set out in the regulations and as per the service's written policy. As a preventive measure, this practice was reviewed with the Exploring Room staff team.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. A copy of the updated Garda vetting.

##### Infection Control:

2. A copy of the hand hygiene training review record, signed by staff members who have participated in the refresher training.
3. Written information, taken from the service's policies and procedures, which outlines that there is 1 nappy changing unit provided for every 11 children in nappies. The inspector also observed this requirement in practice, on the second day of the inspection.

### Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented have addressed the non-compliances identified under regulation 23.

### 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) The registered provider had ensured that a person with up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training, was available to the children throughout the hours of operation. The certification presented for examination indicated that four of the adults had completed this training.
- (2)
- (a) In each of the three care rooms, a well-stocked first aid box was accessible to the adults on a high-level shelf.
  - (b) The first aid supplies were readily available at all times.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service was insured to provide full day care for up to 60 children to attend at any one time, as per the available certificate, which was valid until 27 March 2025.