

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC310
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Nurture Childcare Fairylnw
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Fairy Lawn, Western Road, Cork, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12KP94
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Gallagher
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	26/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	73	PM	64
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<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>	M. O' Reilly & M. Carney
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### 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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Nurture Childcare Fairy lawn is a registered privately owned early years service in operation since 2007. This service provides education and care to children from 0 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time or full day care service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 8am to 6pm each day Monday to Friday.

This service is located on a main road located within walking distance of Cork city centre. The large period style semi-detached, 3 storey building offers 7 playrooms, 6 of which were in operation on the day of the inspection. In addition, there are separate sleep rooms, toilet and nappy changing facilities, ample storage spaces, lobby, staff rooms and kitchen. The children have direct access to secured outdoor play areas. Parents and guardians have car spaces to the front of the building for the children's safe arrival and departure.

### Staffing

There were 17 adults present on the day of inspection and of these 14 adults were working directly with the children. The staff working directly with the children all hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. Also present was the person in charge, deputy and the chef.

There were 25 adults in total attached to the service, this included the registered provider, person in charge, deputy, cook and 21 childcare professionals.

### 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 inspections 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's wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, the deputy, 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 manager was the person in charge on the day of the inspection. A deputy had been appointed to deputise as required. Both the manager and the deputy were present on the inspectors arrival, the registered provider was also available for a period of time in order to facilitate the inspection process.

(b)

On review of the staff roster it was established that the manager or the deputy were on the premises during service operation.

(2)(a)

The person in charge confirmed that 11 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken in July 2022 therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

The following information was identified -

There were 16 written references from past employers with the correct records of validation attached.

(b)

There were 6 written references from a source that the registered provider considered to be reputable on file with records of validation.

(c)

Each member of staff had their Garda vetting disclosures on file.

(d)

There were 7 police vetting disclosures on file for the adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction of Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

There were 6 members of staff with documented certification of Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training on file. Copies of childcare qualifications, as listed and approved on the National Framework of Qualifications from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) were available on file in respect of five of the adults who had obtained their childcare qualification from outside the jurisdiction.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection the person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in all playrooms as follows:

The following 4 rooms are located on the ground floor.

##### **Baby Room**

There were 7 children aged between 1 to 2 years in the morning and 6 in the afternoon with 2 adults in attendance.

##### **Wobbler Room**

There were 15 children in total in the morning and afternoon with 13 children aged between 1 and 2 years and 2 children were aged over two years with 3 adults in attendance.

## **Pre-Toddler Room**

There were 12 children aged between 2 and 3 years with 2 adults in attendance am and in the afternoon .

## **Toddler Room**

There were 16 children aged between 2 and 3 years with 3 staff in attendance am and pm.

The following 3 rooms are located on the first floor.

## **Classroom 2**

There were 17 children present in the morning and 15 in the afternoon aged 3 years plus with 3 adults in attendance.

## **Classroom 3**

There were 6 children attending this playroom aged 3 years plus on a sessional care basis with 1 adult in attendance. There was a school aged care service in operation in the afternoon.

## **Classroom 4**

Not in operation at time of inspection

(8) (a)

On review of the staff roster there were always at least 2 adults on the premises.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There was a total of 73 children present during the morning session. A sample totalling 25 of the children's registration forms were reviewed and found to contain the elements of information as required by Regulation 15 (a) to (i) inclusive

## 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:*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

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

### Compliance Information

(1)

The following records were reviewed and were found to be compliant.

(j)

Each care room had templates for completion when a child required administration of a medication. These were reviewed and found to capture the information required. The templates were stored in the main reception area with a copy filed in the child's individual records.

(k)

Templates were available for the recording of any incident or accident that had occurred in the service. These were stored in each care room, after completion the records were sent to the main reception area for signing off by the relevant parent or guardian. The templates were closely examined and filed in the child's records. The most recent entry was dated 17 April 2023, parental signature indicated that the information had been duly relayed.

## 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

#### Supporting Relations around the Children

- The adults were observed to be caring in their interaction with the children and observed to be interested in the children's activities and listened and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language.
- The adults were observed interacting and assisting the children in play and encouraging them to interact with each other.
- Child led play was supported by staff in all rooms and it was observed during the course of the inspection that the children in all rooms spent time playing outdoors.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to
- Updates and information were furnished to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times and via the services electronic system.
- Rest areas were available to the children so that they could opt out of scheduled activities if they so wished.
- It was evidenced that the staff members availed of ongoing professional development to improve and enhance their childcare skills and knowledge, for example certification evidenced that the staff members had completed courses in facilitating safe sleep and nappy changing procedures. In addition, on-line outdoor play training had been completed.
- It was evident that the service had close links with the community, it was reported by the manager that parents had been invited into the service to share talents and skills with the children, for example a musician, the postman at Christmas time visited and took Santa Claus letters for posting.
- In collaboration with a local book company a reading challenge had been set up whereby reading time with the children was logged. Parents and guardians participated also; this not only promoted the use of books but raised funds for books for the service.

## 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

- Most of the food and snacks consumed on the premise is provided by the service. In-house chef prepared and cooked the food in the services catering kitchen and the food was served to the children by the adults in the service. Children attending on a sessional basis were provided with food and drinks supplied by parents. The children were served fruit at the mid-morning snack that consisted of a mixture of apple, banana, orange and pear appropriately cut up into age-appropriate pieces as observed in the Wobbler Room. They were served adequate portions of a hot meal of chicken curry with peppers, mushrooms and rice at the dinner meal. Second helpings were available to the children as observed in Classroom 2 when children were observed to enjoy eating the food provided.
- It was observed that children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack and mealtimes.
- It was observed that children were given water to drink with the midmorning snack and milk with the hot meal provided at lunch time.
- Some staff members had completed food safety training.

### 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:

- Access to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- The play materials, resources and equipment available were observed to be in a satisfactory condition.
- The stairwell was suitably lit and had stair gates in place.

##### Infection Control:

- The children had access to sufficient toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing facilities.
- The adults had their own designated toilets and wash hand basins.
- A supply of thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels were available throughout the service.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment was available in each room of the service.

##### Safe Sleep:

- The Baby and Wobbler Rooms had a designated separate sleep room which were furnished with a number of standard cots with well-fitting safety mattresses for children under two that required a sleep with individual accompanying bed linen.
- The older pre-school child's needs were met when stackable beds were set up in the Pre-Toddler and Toddler rooms for the children over two that required a sleep. There was a sufficient number of stacking beds available with designated suitable bed linen for children over two years who wanted a sleep while attending the service.
- It was observed when children were asleep, staff monitored the sleeping children. Physical checks of sleeping children were observed to take place in the Wobbler Room every 10 minutes and recorded. In the Pre-Toddler Room a staff member was observed in the sleep room monitoring the sleeping children.
- It was observed when children were asleep there was adequate space provided between the cots and stacking beds
- Rest areas were available in each of the playrooms for the children to rest so that they could opt out of scheduled activities if they so wished.

## 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 manager provided documented certification to evidence that 10 members of staff had up to date first aid training with an expiry date of February 2025.

First aid responder training (FAR) had been completed by 3 adults with an expiry date of October 2024.

(2)

(a) The first aid boxes were safely stored out of children's reach in each of the rooms in operation.

(b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

## 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) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 27/03/23.

(b)

The service had maintained a logbook detailing the number and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment in the service. The fire and smoke alarm systems were checked on a quarterly basis and was last serviced in February 2023. The firefighting equipment had been last serviced in May 2022.

(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 in the service.

## 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 children covered which was 120, the start date, which was 28 March 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The insurance cover also referred to details regarding, contents, public liability and fire and theft cover.