

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC388
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Step One Pre-School (Cailini)
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Blackrock National Hurling Club, Church Road, Blackrock, Cork, Co.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12E33C
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aideen Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/11/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurranabraher 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).

## Conditions if applicable

N/A

## Description of service

Step One Pre-School (Cailíní) is as a sessional service that provides care to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. There is 1 care room that is situated on the first floor at Blackrock National Hurling Club which is a detached 2 storey building located in a residential urban setting. The children's and adult toilet facilities are positioned off the corridor alongside the room. The service is registered to carry out both a morning and afternoon sessional service between the hours of 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.15 pm to 3.15pm.

## Staffing

There are 3 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who is not service based. On the morning of the inspection, there were 2 adults at the premises, and both were working 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, 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 person in charge and deputy were both on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) There were 5 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 3 adults attached to the service.
  - (b) There was 1 reference and required validation available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 3 adults.
  - (d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of each of the 3 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 person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (3) On the day of the inspection the adult child ratio exceeded the 1:11 requirement. There were 2 adults working with 14 children in attendance.

### 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) During the inspection, it was noted that there was a record of a preschool child available on file in respect of each of the 19 early years children that were attached to the service. Each of the 19 records were fully assessed by the inspector and it was noted that all details listed under (a),(b),(d),(e),(f),(g),(h),(i) were recorded on each child's record.

## 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:*

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

## Compliance Information

(1)  
(k) The service used designated forms for the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents that occurred at the premises. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that there were 5 records regarding incidents and injuries available on file for the year 2023 so far. The records were fully complete and detailed the dates when the recorded incidents occurred and were dated when the adults maintained the records. The records showed an account of the events, the management of the incidents/injuries, were signed by the adult maintaining the record and each of the records was co-signed by the respective child's parent/guardian.

## 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 RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- The 2 key adults that were on duty spoke reassuringly and kindly to the children in their care.
- Each child's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way by the adults. They assisted and supported the children as they carried out their activities such as playing with musical instruments, getting ready for the Birthday party and queuing up to wash their hands.
- It was noted that the adults instilled confidence in the children by offering them praise and positive reassurance for tasks carried out such as preparing for the mid-morning snack break and tidying up afterwards.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. General Information regarding the services' activities was provided to them by means of social media, by emails and by a notice board which was displayed at the entrance door.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by them regarding their respective child.
- The service carried out weekly and monthly team meetings and typed up records of these meetings were available for review by the inspector.

### 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:

- Written cleaning records were maintained to demonstrate that the care room was cleaned daily by the adults.
- A fridge was available for the storage of the children's perishable food.
- A supply of crockery was available to the children during their mid-morning snack break.
- A supply of cleaning agents and equipment were available at the service.
- Disposable tissues were available on a low counter so children could access them easily if they required them.
- The children's coats were stored on picture labelled hangers on a rail.
- The children's personal bags were stored off the floor in a storage container.
- The care room was fitted with 5 high opening windows that could easily be opened to facilitate ventilation by natural means. The adult's and children's toilet areas were provided with mechanical ventilation to facilitate ventilation.
- A supply of warm water, liquid soap, paper towels were available in the care room and in the children's toilet area. The water temperature was recorded between 23.2°C and 42.7°C at these wash hand basins during the inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. A supply of warm water was not available at the wash hand basins situated in the adult's toilet area. The water temperature at these wash hand basins was recorded at 14.2°C at 10.10am and 14.3°C at 11.45 am which was the same temperature as the water from the cold tap. This posed a risk of cross infection as hygienic hand washing was not facilitated.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. The thermostat for the water supply to the wash hand basin in the adult toilet area had been switched off but has since been turned on and thermostatically controlled hot water is now available at this wash hand basin.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. The person in charge stated in the Corrective and Preventive Action (CAPA) form submitted on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 that she is now aware that there is a separate thermostat for the water supply to the wash hand basin in the adult toilet area. She will ensure that it is checked daily so that thermostatically controlled hot water is available for hygienic handwashing by the adults.

### Summary Comment

The documentation submitted was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
Records were available to demonstrate that each child was checked in and out daily at the service by the adults. The inspector assessed a sample of records covering a period of 9 days and the records were maintained at arrival and leaving times each day in respect of all the children. On the day of inspection there were 14 early years children on the premises and each child had been checked in on his/her arrival by the adults and was again checked out at home time.