

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC445
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tots & Co. Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Hayfield House, Clover Hill, Kilnagleary, Carrigaline, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P43 CY63
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sonia Vaughan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	23/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	16
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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>	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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Tots and Co. Childcare is a full day care service that is carried out in rooms situated on the ground floor of a two-storey building that was purposely adapted as a childcare facility. The childcare facility is located in a residential area on the outskirts of Carrigaline town, Co. Cork. There are 2 care rooms namely the Foxes room and the Little Cubs room. A small sensory room is also on site for one-on-one or small group activities. There is an outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises that was further developed since the previous inspection.

### Staffing

There were five adults on the premises on the day of inspection that were all working directly with the children. Each of the adults had a major 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 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 wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of 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 service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The named deputy was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The deputy confirmed that five adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 20 February 2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.

- (a) There were eight references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the five adults.
- (b) There were two references and required validations from sources other than past employers.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the five adults.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of three of these adults that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than six 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 five 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.*

*(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)

The deputy ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.

(2)

During the day of inspection, there were two care rooms in operation during the morning and one care room during the afternoon. There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. There were five adults working across the two care rooms with 27 early years children in attendance.

- Foxes room- there were 10 children aged over two years eight months attending sessional service with two adults in attendance.

- Little Cubs room - there were 17 children aged over two years and eight months with 14 children attending part time /full day care and three children attending sessional service with two to three adults in attendance. Four additional children attending ECCE service arrived on the premises at 1.30pm.

(8)(a) The deputy ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises. On the morning of the inspection, there were two adults on the premises at 8am when the service opened its doors. The roster demonstrated that there would be two adults on the premises at closing time.

### 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)

#### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN

- There were key adults assigned to each of the two care rooms and it was noted that the adults engaged positively and spoke reassuringly to the children in their care.
- Each child's behaviour was managed in a competent and individual way by the adults. They assisted and supported the children as they carried out activities that interested them such as sand play and free play in the outdoor area.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. General Information regarding the services' facilities and activities was provided to parents and guardians by means of a parent's handbook.
- Information was shared weekly with parents and guardians by electronic means. General information was also displayed on notice boards which were wall mounted in the entrance foyer and by social applications.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to informally daily at drop off and collection times and formal meetings were arranged as requested by parents/guardians regarding their respective child.
- There was an open day organised annually for potential parents to visit the premises and chat with the staff.

- The service carried out monthly team meetings and records of the meetings were available for review by the inspector.
- The staff in each care room had their own weekly meetings to plan their work which they amended as required depending on the children's needs and wishes.

### 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:

- The main entrance door leading into the premises was kept secured to prevent the unauthorised access by an adult or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- The outdoor play area was secured by high fencing and a secured gate.
- The cleaning agents in each care room were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- Low level glass panels were fitted with visibility strips.
- The water at the hot water taps was thermostatically controlled to no higher than 43°C. The water temperature was recorded at 33.9°C during the inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- Daily and weekly cleaning templates were available on file for review, and it was noted that the premises, equipment and play materials were kept in clean and in good condition.
- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out on arrival to the premises, before snack and mealtimes and after toileting, messy play and outdoor play activities.
- All toilet areas were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water at the wash hand basins, liquid soap and paper dispensers.
- The children's bags and belongings were stored off the floor on wall hooks or in individual shelving units.
- A box of paper tissues was available in each care room for any child who required a tissue to facilitate their nasal hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises.
- Fridges were available for the storage of the children's perishable food.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. The door leading into the kitchen, which was along the corridor that led to the children's toilets, was not kept secured and posed as an injury hazard to children as knives and kitchen utensils were stored at child height.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The registered provider stated in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action (CAPA) form dated 13 June 2023 that a latch was fitted to the door leading into the kitchen and that the adults will ensure that the kitchen is kept secured when not in use.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographs of the newly fitted latch and the secured the kitchen door were submitted to the inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliance were reviewed and deemed to meet 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

- (1)  
The service provided evidence that three adults had up to date training in first aid response (FAR) and that one of these adults was always on the premises during the hours of operation.
- (2)  
(a) There was one large and four smaller first aid boxes available at the premises which were all fully equipped. The larger first aid box was stored on a high shelf in the kitchen. Each of the smaller first aid boxes were stored out of children's reach on high wall hooks or in a secured press under the stairwell.
- (b) The equipped first aid boxes were always available on the premises.

## 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) Records of monthly fire drills carried out at the service were available on file. The last morning fire drill was carried out on 28 April 2023.
  - (b) Records regarding the number, service and type of fire equipment were maintained on file. The fire equipment last had a maintenance service during January 2023. The wired smoke alarm was last serviced on 14 July 2022.
- (4)
- Copies and maps of the fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire were available on file and on display in the main foyer.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

### Compliance Information

During the inspection it was noted that each child was under the supervision of qualified adults. The required adult child ratio was maintained whilst children participated in both indoor and outdoor activities. The children were visible to the adults while they were in their respective care room which had clear layouts or whilst playing in interest areas in the outdoor play area. The children were actively supported by the adults and provide with individual care as required during hand washing, mealtime, and toileting activities. It was noted that the children that used the toilets independently were supervised by sound by the adults and those that required assistance were provided with it.