

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC452
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	T.V.G Goras Community Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	25 Lower John Street, Cork.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T23 YX50
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Breda O'Donoghue
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	31/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23 X440
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

T.V.G Goras Community Childcare is a play-based, part time service, that was first established in 2007. It is registered to accommodate children aged 0 to 6 years, including children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates 48 weeks of the year, with registered daily opening hours from 9.00am to 1.00pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm.

Located in Cork city, the premises consists of a three-storey building, the ground floor of which has been purposely adapted to facilitate an early years service. The upper floors are utilised for office space. There are two care rooms on the ground floor, namely the Pre-school room and the Creche. Child and staff sanitary facilities are provided adjacent to the care rooms and there is a designated sleep room adjoining the Creche. A kitchen/office is also included and there is an outdoor play space accessible at the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

Eleven adults are attached to the setting, nine of whom are involved in the direct care of the children. This includes one adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) support scheme and one Community Employment (CE) participant. The registered provider does not work directly with the children who attend the setting, nor does a second adult, who is employed as a cleaner.

### 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, 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) There was a designated person in charge of operating the early years service and a named deputy had also been appointed, to deputise in her absence. Corresponding written information, which was displayed in the entrance area, confirmed this practice.
  - (b) The person in charge was present throughout the inspection process.
- (2) Recruitment records in respect of the 11 adults attached to the setting were assessed and the following was deemed satisfactory:
- (a) Of the 22 required written and validated references, 16 were from past employers.
  - (b) A further six had been provided by sources other than past employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 11 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

- (d) Employment history records demonstrated that police vetting from other jurisdictions was required for one of the adults and the relevant documentation was in place.
- (4) Records demonstrated that eight 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). Qualifications were not required in respect of the registered provider, the CE participant, or the cleaner.

### 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 all times during the period of inspection, it was observed that there was an adequate number of staff working directly with children.
- (2) The adult child ratio was correct on the day of the unannounced inspection. The rooms were in operation as follows:

Morning:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Creche (8 months – 3 years)	13	4 + 1 CE participant
Pre-school (3 – 5 years)	8	2

Afternoon:

Room Name and Age Range of Children	Number of Children Present	Number of Adults Present
Creche (8 months – 2 ½ years)	12	4 + 1 CE participant
Pre-school (3 – 5 years)	6	2

The person in charge was also available to provide cover for lunch breaks.

(8)

(a) Review of the staff roster and observation on the day of inspection demonstrated that the service was consistently operated with at least two adults present.

### 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:

- During mealtimes, a relaxed, calm atmosphere was evident, which encouraged the children to take their time and enjoy their snacks. The adults were readily available to assist the children as needed.
- The person in charge advised that the service operated in partnership with parents, through various communication pathways. These included informal discussion at arrival and collection times, phone calls, and a messaging application. A newsletter was also distributed to the parents of the children who attended the Pre-school room. Topics covered within this newsletter were noted to reflect the children's recent activities and learning, as well as information regarding upcoming events.

- The person in charge informed the inspector that among staff, informal discussion in relation to the service took place daily. One-to-one meetings were held each term and records of said meetings were maintained on file. The inspector was also advised that team meetings were accommodated approximately every two months.
- Care routines, such as nappy changing and feeding, were carried out in a kind, unhurried and respectful manner.
- Staff were observed to show positive regard towards the children. For example, when some of the children completed a jigsaw, one of the adults responded enthusiastically and took a photograph of the jigsaw to send to the children's parents.

### 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-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- Children aged under two years were facilitated to sleep in a designated sleep room, located adjoining the Creche. This space consisted of three standard cots, which were equipped with well fitting, waterproof mattresses.
- Stackable beds and linen were maintained for use by children aged over two years, should they require sleep while in attendance.
- Rest areas were incorporated into both care rooms for any child who may wish to relax and opt out of scheduled activities.

### 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

- The children's meals and snacks were supplied by their parents or caregivers. At the time of inspection, the mid-morning snack in the Creche room was observed to include rice cakes, yogurt and a selection of fruit.
- A second meal break was facilitated for the children who remained at the setting to attend part time care. Examples of the foods on offer included wraps, sandwiches, crackers, cheese and fruit. Water was available as a drink.
- The inspector was advised that some of the children had mild food intolerances. This was managed through notifying parents and advising them to avoid providing snacks that contained such food allergens.
- During discussion, the person in charge confirmed that if a child were to express hunger outside of routine mealtimes, they would be accommodated to select something to eat from their lunch box.

### 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:

- Upon the inspector's arrival at the service, the main entrance door was found to have been secured and was maintained secure when not in use. This safety precaution curtailed the risk of unauthorised access and also reduced the risk of a child exiting the premises. In addition, entry to and exit from the care rooms was controlled by an electronic keypad.
- In the outdoor play space, a secure enclosure was created through high-level walls and a secured gate.
- Blind cords were securely anchored through the use of suitable tension devices.
- At each of the wash hand basins, water temperatures were maintained below 43°C, as required. This reduced the risk of a scald injury to a child.
- Radiator covers were in place to prevent children from coming into direct contact with the heat sources.
- Cleaning agents were stored on high-level shelves, out of reach of the children.
- Fire extinguishers were maintained in wall mounted cabinets.

##### Infection control:

- Effective handwashing was promoted through the provision of warm running water, liquid soap, paper towels dispensers and foot pedal operated bins. The children were noted to wash their hands after using the sanitary facilities, after engaging in a messy play activity and before eating.
- During an observed nappy changing procedure, the following practices reduced the risk of cross infection:
  - The adult wore single use gloves and an apron, which were removed and disposed of immediately after the nappy change.
  - Both the child and the adult washed their hands, once the nappy changing procedure was completed.
- The children's perishable snacks were observed to be refrigerated, which ensured that such snacks were maintained within the recommended temperature range of 0°C to 5°C.
- The playrooms were adequately ventilated with open windows, which allowed for the circulation of fresh air.

##### Administration of medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed during the course of the inspection.

- The inspector was informed that one of the children had been prescribed specific medication and that two staff members had received the relevant training to administer this medication, should the need arise. The medication was found to be in-date, labelled and was stored in a location that was out of the children's reach.

### Safe sleep:

- Records indicated that sleeping children were monitored at 10-minute intervals, in relation to their position, colour and breathing and these records were initialled by the adult who undertook the physical checks.
- An air temperature of 18°C was taken in the sleep room, while it was in use by a sleeping child. This was within the safe range of 18°C to 22°C, for children aged over 12 months.

### Fire safety:

- Fire exits were observed to be free from any obstructions.
- Fire exit signage was illuminated.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was on file for three of the adults who worked at the setting and at least one of these adults was consistently available to the children.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

(e) Adequate sanitary facilities were in place at the setting. The children's sanitary facility consisted of three toilets, two nappy changing stations and five wash hand basins. An outdoor toilet facility was also available, adjoining the outdoor play space. One toilet and one wash hand basin were provided in this area. A staff toilet facility was located adjacent to the kitchen/office and this consisted of one toilet and one wash hand basin.