

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC464
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Yellow House
-------------------------	--------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	59 North Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
----------------------------	---------------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	P81YY80
-----------------	---------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Jennifer O'Connell
-------------------------------------	--------------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/11/2024
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	13
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, West Cork P81 PD78
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. O Reilly
<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
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Yellow House is a registered privately owned early years service in operation since 2007. The service provides education and care to children from 2 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional or part time day care and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. At time of inspection the children were aged between 2 years 6 months to 6 years. The registered opening hours are from 09:00 to 14:00 hours each day Monday to Friday.

### Staffing

At time of inspection, there were 3 staff employed at the early years setting involved in the direct care of the children who attend and the registered provider. Each of the 4 adults hold a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education. There was a student on placement in the service but was not present on day of inspection.

### 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 and safety. 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 registered provider, 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*
- (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 and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider was present when the inspector arrived on the premises and remained for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- The recruitment records in relation to 1 student and 4 staff who were employed at the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the 10 required references, 5 references were from previous employers with the records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the remaining references, 5 references were from another source other than a previous employer with the required records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 5 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) There were 3 police vetting records on file for 2 adults who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) The 4 staff attached to the service had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education with copies of the relevant qualifications on file. The student was on work placement as part of her Early Childhood Care and Education college course.

### 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) A sufficient number of adults were observed to work with the children who attended the service.

(2) At the time of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of regulation as follows:

For the morning session, there were 13 children with 3 adults in attendance and the registered provider accommodated the inspection process. There were 13 children in attendance for the part time service in the afternoon between 12 and 2pm with 2 adults in attendance and the registered provider.

### 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:*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

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

#### Compliance Information

(h) The service had a record that indicated the arrival and departure time of each child on a daily basis in the sessional service. The service had a separate part time attendance record, this included the children that came to attend the part time service from the nearby sister service.

(k) There was a hard copy Accident and Incident record. A sample of the accidents and incidents records on file were reviewed. All accidents and incidents records were signed by the parent and staff members.

### 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

##### BASIC NEEDS

- On inspection, a relaxed and calm environment was provided for the children, and it was observed that the adults spoke kindly and offered encouragement to each child.
- Staff were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged.
- Because of the high adult child ratio at time of inspection, lots of one-to-one positive interaction was observed between staff and children.
- The children were observed colouring a large cardboard box. The children were using their imagination and creative skills to develop this as a home for bats, when hibernating during the winter which was included as part of the theme for the month. Pictures of bats eyes and they are flying, a play hedgehog hibernating in one of the shelves at adult height and an autumn/winter table with different coloured autumn leaves, cones, different sized nuts and a pumpkin were all items in the playroom supporting the children's understanding of items and activities associated with winter.
- The children were largely independent using the toilet and were supported appropriately by the adults to use the toilet, if necessary.
- Children's need for mobility was met with both the indoor and outdoor play area being used on the day of inspection

##### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The Montessori room was spacious, child-friendly, bright, and well-presented and the room opened directly into the outdoor play area.
- The indoor environment of the playroom was laid out in defined interest areas, including Montessori materials/practical life including materials for the development of fine motor skills and self-independence. home/ construction area, library, culture/geography, painting, and crafts area.

- The layout of the room promotes the independent access to all the materials to foster children’s autonomy and freedom of choice.
- A quiet corner was in place to facilitate quiet time.
- There was a variety of materials and interest areas in the outdoor play area including water play area planting area, play blocks, a tunnel, slide, easel and child size timber bench seating. There were wall mounted safety mirrors and a blackboard.
- The walls depicted colourful mountain and beach murals. The surface of the outdoor area was covered with an artificial grass cover. There was a partially covered space in the outdoor play area to accommodate play outdoors when raining.
- The children were observed playing outdoors in group and singular play closely supervised by staff.
- A mixture of adult led play and child directed play was facilitated while playing indoors and outdoors

### 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 parents and guardians provided all food items. A designated dining area was developed within the playroom where the children could sit and eat their lunches when they felt hungry. This was an unhurried, sociable experience which was overseen by a staff member to ensure that each child had eaten during the session. Lunches were stored in snack boxes which had been labelled with the child’s name and stored in the service fridge. There was a second lunch box for the children attending the part time service. Healthy, nutritious lunches were observed being eaten such as sandwiches, rice cakes, rolls, yogurts, a selection of fruits and chopped and diced vegetables. Age-appropriate crockery and cutlery was provided. The service provided a choice of milk or water to drink at snack time.

### 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:

- Entry to the service was possible via the main door and this was observed secure when not in use on day of inspection. This minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises and reduced the likelihood of a child exiting, while unsupervised.
- The outdoor play area was securely enclosed by a combination of walls and secured wooden gate.
- All of the available cleaning agents were stored out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- Throughout the service, wash hand basins were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towel dispensers, for hygienic hand washing and drying. Handwashing by the children was observed before snack times, after toileting and outdoor play.
- Lidded, foot pedal operated bins were available for waste and disposal of single used papers towels throughout the service
- A fridge was available for the storage of perishable items in the playroom.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Padded sleep mats with individual bed linen were available to facilitate sleep as required for children attending on a part time basis.

### 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 did ensure that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certifications on file indicated that one staff member present on day of inspection held current up to date training.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in the service. The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the playroom

(b) The fully equipped first aid box was 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 fire fighting 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 8/11/24

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment and the emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced in October 2024.

(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 registered provider ensured the service was adequately insured, with insurance for 26 children until 27/11/2024. The records detailed the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.