

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CW032
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	O'Regan's Nursery and Pre-school
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St Martins, Quinagh, Carlow, Co. Carlow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R93 ND89
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Bolger
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/07/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	25	PM	23
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Community Care Centre, HSE Buildings, Cork Road, Waterford City.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Ryan.
<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

O'Regan's Nursery and Pre-school is a privately run full day care service, located on the outskirts of Carlow town. The service operates adjacent to and on the grounds of a private family residence. The building accommodates three childcare rooms, a sleep room, a catering kitchen, toilet facilities for adults /children and nappy changing area. The outdoor play area is safely secured on the grounds at the rear of the premises. O'Regan's Nursery and Pre-school operates from 07:30hrs to 18:00 hrs Monday to Friday and participates in Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE).

### Staffing

The registered provider is the manager and part of the staff compliment, and employs a further five childcare staff, a part-time cook and one house keeping staff.

### 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.

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service
- Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 25 - First aid.
- Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures.

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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge. The service also had a named person who was able to deputise as required.
  - (b) The registered provider and named person who was able to deputise were present in the service for the duration of the inspection.
  - (c) A family run service that employed members of extended family and had documentation identifying responsibility of each family member.

(2)

There were no new employees since the last inspection on 29 November 2022. The staff files for the eight employees working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff members file.

(c)

There were Garda vetting disclosures available for all 8 staff working in the service. Of these and 5 Garda vetting disclosures had not been re-vetted in the last 3 years in accordance with the Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 issued by the Tusla inspectorate as reported under Regulation 23.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the employees had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months.

(4)

There was evidence that all staff employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5, 6 or 8 on the National Qualifications Framework. There was evidence of continuous professional development and qualification certificates on file.

### 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)  
On the day of inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the service, which met the requirement for the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

(2)  
On the morning of the inspection there were 25 pre-school children directly supervised by 6 staff members.  
In the Baby room there were 3 children aged 1 to 2 years directly cared for by 1 staff member.  
In the Toddler room there were 10 children, aged 2 to 3 years, directly cared for by 3 staff members.  
In the Preschool room there were 12 children aged 3 to 5 years of age, directly cared for by 2 staff members.

During the afternoon, there were 23 pre-school children directly supervised by 6 staff members. The numbers were as follows:

In the Baby room there were 3 children aged 1 to 2 years directly cared for by 1 staff member.  
In the Toddler room there were 9 children, aged 2 to 3 years directly cared for by 3 staff members.  
In the Preschool room there were 11 children aged 3 to 5 years of age directly cared for by 2 staff members.

## 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)  
There was evidence on the day of the inspection that all children’s records required under Regulation 15 1 (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) (h) (i) were available in respect of each child attending the service. These were recorded on template record sheets. On sampling three of these records, it was observed that all sections of the forms were completed. Each of the children’s records had written parental consent from parents or guardians for appropriate medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

### 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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
- (e) the facilities available;
- (f) the opening hours and fees;
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (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

There was evidence on the day of the inspection that records required under Regulation 16(1) (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)(j)(k) were kept on the service and available for inspection in the following formats:

Details of the name, positions and certificates of qualifications for each staff member working in the service were available. The following details on the service were available in a printed format and clearly presented on single sheets for inclusion in a parent handbook.

1. The type of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
2. Details of the adult: child ratios in the service;
3. Information on of the type of care or programme and the facilities available within the service;
4. The opening hours and fees;

Weekly staff rosters were displayed in the office. The policies, procedures and statements of the service were available via email in hard copy a designated folder at the reception room for parents to browse.

Attendance books, books for the administration of medication and books to record any accidents or injuries involving a pre-school child attending the service were available. All records were observed to be completed and up to date.

## 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) Regulation 19 was assessed through direct observation, review of records and discussion with staff. The following was observed in relation to meeting children's needs in the service. There were three care rooms in operation on the day of the inspection, the preschool room the toddler room and the baby room. The setting was cosy and homely and children were observed to be confident and comfortable in their surroundings.

In the preschool room in the morning children were observed at free play enjoying the free movement between the three adjoining open room areas. The mood was relaxed with the start of the summer holidays and the registered provider was completing and made available to the inspector the learning journals for the end of the ECCE year.

The service provided a play-based programme and stated in the statement of purpose on the service that the early years were a time for fun and physical growth as well as a time for creating the foundations of children's enjoyment for learning. The registered provider informed the inspector that the services ethos promotes the idea of play as the natural and most effective and powerful way that a child learns.

All the main meals were prepared and cooked from an onsite kitchen on the premises and the snacks were provided by parents and guardians. The service employed a part time cook to prepare the main meal that was served at 12:00hrs and this comprised of fish fingers mashed potatoes, and a vegetable puree made with carrots and parsnips. Children were observed to have yogurts, cheese and fresh fruit for the afternoon snack. Drinking water was available to the children throughout the day.

A set sleep time was observed for the babies and toddlers in the afternoon and children were observed to have adjusted to this routine effortlessly settling down easily, staff members stayed in the rooms for the duration of this rest period.

Tents and gazebos were set upon the outdoor cemented area in the afternoon for the snacks, this was observed to be sociable and relaxed as the staff encouraged chatter and conversations with the children. For most of the remainder of the day the preschool children remained outdoors. There was direct access to the outdoor play spaces from all three care rooms and this ensured that all children attending the service were able to be outdoors at any given time. Outdoor toilets and hand washing facilities could be directly accessed from the outdoor play area.

The staff continually engaged in conversations with the children offering different opportunities for play for example in the larger outdoor space there were three large activity frames, and an enclosed planting area that had crops of potatoes and beans. Sand trays mounted on outdoor tables and made available for any child as they so choose. Some children used the wooden cabin, a sheltered playroom in the outdoor play area which was stocked with open-ended play items and available for use throughout the day. Children were observed to be happy in the well-resourced, play rich environment and staff were observed to be vigilant, and attentive to the children's needs for example each child had their own sunscreen, and this was observed being applied with the children again in the afternoon.

### 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

The registered provider had security cameras on the front of the premises allowing viewing of all persons seeking access to the service. The external door was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting and unauthorised persons gaining access. The outdoor play area was secured from the neighbouring residential area by high hedges and walls.

Toxic substances and cleaning agents were stored in a locked cleaning store inaccessible to children. All electrical sockets were fitted with safety covers.

Radiators were guarded to ensure the surface temperature was safe for children. Warm water at the taps available to the children was thermostatically controlled to ensure against scalding accidents.

Safety gates were provided on entrance doors to all playrooms to prevent children accessing the hallways, nappy changing area and kitchen.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for all 8 staff working in the service. 3 Garda vetting disclosures had been re-vetted in the last 3 years. The remaining 5 of the Garda vetting disclosures had not been re-vetted in the last 3 years in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 issued by the Tusla inspectorate on the renewal of garda vetting.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### General Safety:

On the 21 August 2024 two of the five Garda vetting disclosures required for re-vetted in the last 3 years were submitted to the inspectorate. The registered provider informed the Inspectorate on the 23 August 2024 that the further three disclosures were returned from the Garda vetting Bureau due to minor errors in the applications, however these were resubmitted on the 19 August 2024. The registered provider stated that as soon as these are returned, they will be submitted to the inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The actions submitted to address the requirements of the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 were appropriate.

## 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)

Two staff employed to work in the service were currently First Aid Responder trained. The registered provider ensured that at all times there was a member of the trained staff available on the premises.

(2)

(a) There were first aid boxes in all the pre-school rooms.

(b) These first aid boxes were suitably equipped, well stocked and available at all times.

## 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 recording system was provided to ensure a monthly record was maintained of fire drills as conducted and it was noted that the last fire drill took place on the premises on the 24 June 2024.
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was maintained. It was recorded that fire equipment was last serviced in December 2023 and smoke alarms were last serviced on 2 July 2024.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure was displayed on the notice board in the main hall which contained details of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.