

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DL127
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Shining Stars Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Frosses, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
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<b>Eircode:</b>	F94 P2K4
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Tracy Gallagher
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	7	PM	-
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Donegal Early Years Inspectorate, St. Conal's Campus, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. F95 XK94
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Mc Glynn
<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

Shining Stars Playschool is a privately owned and operated pre-school service located in the centre of the village of Frosses in County Donegal. The service is registered to provide a pre-school service to children aged between 2 and 6 years and operates from 9.30am to 12.30pm each weekday. The service is operated from the ground floor of a terrace building on the main street. There is one preschool room with adjoining sanitary accommodation. Children have daily access to an outdoor play area located at the rear of the premises which is directly accessible from the care room.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the named person in charge and works directly with the children on a daily basis. There is one other staff member employed in the service under the Access and Inclusion model.

### 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. 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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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.*

*(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

(2) The vetting documentation for both staff members working in the service were reviewed on this inspection.

The following information was deemed to meet the requirements of the regulation.

(a) (b) There were two past employer references on file for each staff member.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for both staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Documentary evidence of a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) minimum Level 5 qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or equivalent was on file for both staff members.

## 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) on the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the period of the inspection. There were seven pre-school children attending on a sessional basis being cared for by one adult.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*  
*(c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider confirmed that there were 11 children registered to attend the service. The enrolment records of all 11 children were reviewed on inspection. The details required at points (a) to (i) of this regulation were maintained for the 11 children.

(3) (c) The required records were made available to the inspector.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

All equipment both indoors and outdoors was safe and suitable for the children attending. Resources were well maintained, clean and in good condition. The furniture and equipment was inclusive and reflected the needs of children attending, their family and wider community. The equipment in the preschool room was laid out in defined interest areas to facilitate meaningful play activities and experiences. Areas that supported children’s imaginary play included a kitchen/home/restaurant area, doll and baby care area, farm and construction area and small world area. Children’s creative development was encouraged through musical instruments, a library area, junk and art materials. A selection of tabletop equipment was also readily accessible on open, low-level shelving alongside resources to promote cognitive and problem-solving skills such as magnetic tiles, pegboards, plastic and wooden blocks. There were ample supplies of additional equipment to allow for toy rotation and the room contained adequate child sized tables and chairs for each of the children attending. There was adequate storage of cleaning equipment, files and personal belongings out of reach of children.

Children had access to an enclosed outdoor play area on the day which was roofed over with clear corrugated roof sheeting to allow outdoor play in all weathers. The area contained equipment suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending including an area for water play, sand play, planting, construction play and a kitchen area. The outdoor area was safe and well maintained.

## 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) Certificates were available to evidence that two staff members held the required First Aid Responder (FAR) training in first aid for children.

(2) (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous position in the Preschool room.

(b) The first aid supplies were available at all times if the children attending the service required them.

## 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.*

*(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

*(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) Fire drills were conducted monthly in the service with written records of the fire drills kept by the staff. The most recent fire drill record showed that it was undertaken on 19 November 2024.

(b) The service kept a record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms. The records showed that the firefighting equipment was last maintained in August 2024 and the smoke alarms were serviced in August 2024.

(2) (c) The records were made available to the inspector in the service on request.

(4) Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed on the walls of the preschool room.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a certificate of insurance for up to 11 children attending a sessional service at any one time with an expiry date of 27 March 2025.