

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR013		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Play Days Pre-school		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Room 1 Shanganagh Park House, Rathsallagh, Shankill, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 AY26		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elaine Cleary		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/04/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM 12
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Play Days Pre-School was established in 2009 and is privately operated. The childcare service is registered to provide part time and sessional care and education to pre-school children from 2-6 Years. The service is registered to operate Monday to Friday from 9am to 1:30pm.

The service operates from Shanganagh Park house Community Centre in Shankill County Dublin. The premises has been purposely adapted and is also shared with another early years service. Care of the children is facilitated in one room on the first floor of the building. A purpose-built outdoor play area and a garden is provided to the rear of the premises. Both areas were well equipped with a variety of play equipment.

### Staffing

Four adults are employed in the service including the registered provider.

### 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 an examination of compliance under regulations 9 - Management and Recruitment, 11 – Staffing Levels, 16 – Record in relation to Pre-school service, 19 – Health, welfare and development of child, 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child, 25 – First Aid and 26 – Fire Safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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, 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 designated person in charge and a named person who could deputise as required.
  - (b) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and was present on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) One adult was employed since the last inspection on the 10 May 2021. This staff file was reviewed as detailed.
- (a) Two validated past employer references were available on file.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of an Garda Síochána was available.
  - (d) Police vetting was not required as the adult had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

*(3) All required recruitment procedures were carried out prior to the staff member being assigned to work with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(4) Evidence was provided to confirm the adult employed to work directly with the pre-school children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.*

### 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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.*

*(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirteen children attending the service being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.*

*(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times.*

## 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;*
- (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

- (h)* Details of the attendance of each child in the service were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.
- (i)* The staff roster was available and accurately reflected the adults working in the service on the day of inspection.
- (j)* A sample of medication administration records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.
- (k)* A sample of accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

## 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*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

### Compliance Information

*(1)(a),(b)*

The service had a healthy eating policy in place. For morning snack children were offered crackers, butter, cheese slices and pieces of apple. Parents provided lunch for their children. The atmosphere at snack time was calm and sociable. Children sat together and engaged in conversation with each other and staff. Suitable cutlery was provided. Children had their own individual water container and had access to water throughout the day.

Children were encouraged by staff to attend to their own personal care and were observed to access tissues to clean their own noses. Children went to the toilet independently while being closely supervised by staff. Staff demonstrated a good understanding of individual children's personalities and showed respect for their preferences around different activities. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play both indoors and outdoors.

Suitable child size table and chairs were provided for eating and table-top activities. The design of the pre-school room was open plan and included defined areas of interest allowing children the opportunity to play and explore. The designated areas of interest included a home corner, small world toys, dress up areas, construction toys, art materials, rest areas with books and home corners. Low level shelving was equipped with games, puzzles and blocks each of the areas were adequately resourced with a variety of material. A purpose-built playground and garden was available to the children. All children spent time in the garden.

### 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:

- External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely, and no hazards were observed on the day of inspection.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

- The premises was kept in a clean manner and daily cleaning carried by staff was recorded.
- Children's hands were washed at appropriate times including after using the toilet and prior to eating.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored safely out of reach of children.
- A care plan was available for a child with a specific medical condition and staff were familiar with it.
- Staff demonstrated an awareness of how to give medications in a safe manner if needed. A suitable medication record form was available to record any medication given.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

- The bin provided in the sanitary area was not pedal operated both children and staff were observed handling the lid of the bin posing an infection control risk.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

A new bin will be purchased

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### Infection Control:

Receipt for the purchase of the bin was submitted.

#### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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) A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.*

*(2)*

*(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.*

*(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service 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 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 written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 22 March 2023.
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated March 2023 and October 2022 for the smoke alarms.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.