

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR175
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Pooh Bears Community Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Loughlinstown Community Rooms, Rear of Loughlinstown shopping Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 RY11
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann Mooney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/10/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill and Roisin Phillips
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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

This community based childcare service has been operating in its current location since 2005. It provides sessional early years care and an early childhood care and education curriculum to children aged from 1-6 years. The early years service is located in a prefabricated building on the grounds of Loughlinstown community rooms in Loughlinstown County Dublin. Two care rooms are provided and on the day of inspection only the Baby room was open. An outdoor play area is available on the premises.

### Staffing

In total seven staff are employed in the service. On the day of inspection four staff members were present and working directly with the children. One of the staff members was employed on a community employment scheme. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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

The 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.

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

9 (1) (a), (b) (2) (a)-(d) & (4) – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (3) – Staffing Levels

Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child

Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a) &(b) – Fire Aid

Regulation 26(1), (2)(a), (b) & (4) – Fire Safety

however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 23 General Safety. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School child.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

(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,
- (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.

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was a designated person in charge and named persons to deputise as required.
  - (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The inspection included a review of files for new adults employed in the service since the last inspection on the 21 November 2023 and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff employed to work in the service.
- (a) There were two written validated references available on file from previous employers for the new staff member.
  - (c) Garda Vetting from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was available for all adults employed in the service. However, the Garda vetting disclosure available for one member of staff was dated more than three years ago. This is contrary to Regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3, Renewal of Garda Vetting as detailed under Regulation 23.
  - (d) Not applicable, the staff member had not lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

### 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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.  
(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were eleven children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

### 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) A sample of eleven records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
  - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
  - (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
  - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
  - (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
  - (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
  - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
  - (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
  - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

### 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)

When the inspectors arrived, children were observed to be engaged in free play. Child led play was facilitated with children's choices being respected. During this time children were given the opportunity to choose their own activities. Children were observed being engaged in play in different areas of interest and the staff members supported the children in play in small and larger group activities, including sensorial play. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection. Children's language development was supported by one-to-one interactions, group discussions and movement to songs.

Children were supported to use the toilet independently while being closely supervised by staff. Younger children's nappies were changed as required, staff used this time to promote learning and to interact one-on-one with children. Children were encouraged and supported by staff to practice good hand hygiene, they were observed, washing their hands after using the toilet and prior to eating their lunch.

Healthy lunches were provided by parents. All perishable items were stored in the fridge provided. The atmosphere was calm at lunch time. Children and staff sat together enjoying their food and talking with one another. All children had access to their own individual water container.

The children's photos and family photos were displayed in the classroom, at a low height, to promote connectedness with home and promote a sense of belonging. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care room. Defined areas of interest in the care room allowed children the opportunity to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included a home corner, musical instruments, dress up areas, construction toys and a rest area with books. Each area was well resourced and the materials were observed to be easily accessible to the children on low level shelving provided. Children had access to an outdoor area on the premises. This area had a natural grass surface and was well equipped with a variety of toys, play equipment and seating for the children.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

A Garda vetting disclosure available for one staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Written evidence 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) There was evidence to demonstrate that the seven staff employed in the service had completed First aid Responder training and the certificates available were valid until the 18 January 2026. These staff were immediately available to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2)
  - (a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available.
  - (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending 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) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place in the premises; the last recorded fire drill was on the 23 September 2024.
  - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the November 2023 and the Smoke alarm was serviced on the 22 August 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

### Compliance Information

Throughout the inspection the children were supervised at all times by staff.