

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS001		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Ronanstown Community Childcare Centre		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D22 V2C6		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marie Daly		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	22/04/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	40	PM 28
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Brien & O. Quill		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<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

Ronanstown Community Childcare Centre is a not-for-profit early years service. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care and caters for children from 1 to 6 years. The service operates from 07:45 to 18:15, Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a purpose-built childcare facility which is shared with another early years service at the Neilstown shopping centre in Clondalkin, South Dublin. There are 4 care rooms, the Wobbler room caters for children aged 1. The Toddler room caters for children aged 2. The Early Start Preschool and ECCE Preschool rooms cater for children from 3 to 5 years of age. There are three sleep rooms and a sensory room in the service. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the premises which is accessed directly from each care room.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 15 staff including a manager. There were 12 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection including the designated person in charge who attended the service following the inspector's arrival. An additional adult who was on a community employment programme was also present. The registered provider does not work directly with the children and was not present on the 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9 (1)(a)(b),(2),(3),(4) Management and Recruitment,  
11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels,  
16(h),(i),(j),(k) Record in relation to pre-school service,  
19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,  
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under the following regulation:

29(c),(d) Premises.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(h)(j)(k) – Record in relation to pre-school service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Wobbler, Toddler and Early Start rooms.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 29(c),(d) - Premises.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the nappy changing area in the Wobbler room.

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,
- (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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(2) The files of sixteen adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included the two staff members who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 24 April 2023. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the thirty-two references that were required, twenty were available from a past employer and twelve were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the sixteen staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for one staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that fifteen staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(3) The registered provider did not take appropriate measures to ensure that all adults were suitable to work in an early years service prior to their commencement. It is acknowledged that three past employer references and a reference from a reputable source were available in respect of two staff members, however, there was no evidence available to demonstrate that these references had been validated by the registered provider prior to commencing in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

All files have been rechecked and are all up to date with everything including written and verified phone references for all staff members. References will be double checked on a regular basis.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

### 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 for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were forty children attending the service being supervised by twelve adults on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a) There were at least 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 Wobbler and Toddler rooms were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(h) Two children from the Early Start Preschool room who attend another service from 12:00 to 14:20 were not recorded as having left the service during this time. Failure to accurately record attendance poses a risk to the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.

(i) The staff roster on the day did not accurately reflect the number of adults working and present in the service. There was no documentary evidence of planning for sufficient cover to maintain the required staffing levels at all times. There were twelve staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection and only seven of these were on the staff roster for the day.

(j) A sample of eleven medication administration records were reviewed. Some of these records were incomplete. Four of these records were not signed by a second staff member and five records were not signed by a parent, contrary to the service's administration of medicine policy.

Failure to have medication administration witnessed and to ensure that parents have been informed of the administration of medication poses a risk to the children. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

(k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed and were not completed adequately. Seven records were not signed by a parent and two records had no staff signature. Failure to ensure that parents have been informed of an injury to their child may pose a risk to the continuity of care of the child.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(h) Spoke to the staff about their responsibility of keeping the children safe by signing the children in and out every time they leave the centre and how important it was -fire/fire drills etc. All staff were retrained to do this on online application.

(i) The staff roster has been updated to the needs of the centre. We will continue to update the roster of any changes in the future.

(j) Staff were retrained on all of this, we spoke about the importance of having a member of management present when giving medication, a member of the management and another staff member signing off on the forms, informing the parents and asking them to sign the forms to give permission for medication to be given to their children. Staff were retrained on this on online application.

(k) All staff have been retrained on this and we spoke about the importance of staff taking responsibility to inform the parents of any accident or incident their children may have while in our care and forms must always be signed off by a staff member, parent, and a member of the childcare management team. Staff were retrained on this on online application.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(h) Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

(i) Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

(j) Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

(k) Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

#### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

## 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

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children are offered breakfast on arrival and a fruit snack is provided during the morning. Dinner was served between 11:30 and 12:00. Younger children were given bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves. Additional servings of dinner were available if requested and inspectors observed more food being offered and given to children in the Wobbler and Early Start rooms who had finished their meal.

Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's faces and hands were washed after dinner. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated nap time for children attending the Wobbler and Toddler rooms and the sleep needs of children in the Toddler room were observed to be met with staff observed placing a child to bed outside of the designated nap time.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's positive behaviour management policy.

Staff described how they communicate with parents regarding their child's day using an online application detailing information on food, sleep and nappy changes. Staff also communicate with parents at arrival and collection times.

Care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, jigsaws, home corners, sand play and books. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The children's artwork and photos were displayed throughout the care rooms.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms. A fully enclosed outdoor area was located to the rear of the premises and had shock absorbent surfacing. The area was divided into two separate play spaces and part of one of these areas which was in use by the Wobbler room had a canopy. The outdoor area was well resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment. All children accessed the outdoor area during the inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. At 12:00, during dinnertime in the Wobbler room, a child was observed to throw another child's dinner on to the floor before the child had sat down at the table. An additional serving of dinner was not offered to this child who was attending the service on a full-time basis. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
2. Contrary to the service policy on supporting children with additional needs there was no documented individual education and care plan to support staff to meet the needs of a child in the ECCE Preschool room. Staff confirmed that this child required additional supports and that there was no documentation regarding this child's individual personal needs and preferences.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. I spoke to staff about their responsibility to the children in their care. Any child who does not eat the food on our menu must still be offered what is on the menu every day, and if it gets knocked to the ground, they must be offered another one even if they think they will not eat it, they are still entitled to be offered the same as any other child. If they do not eat the food on the menu, we have a picky menu for the children to choose from. In toddler room we now have a sign on the press for extra food from the picky menu for children who might not eat from the menu.

2. A documented individual care plan has been written up for the child in our preschool room, it has been put on the wall in the room, so any staff member who enters the preschool room to look after the children they will know the child better and how to support them in their own learning and know what to do to support the child. All staff have been made aware of this and asked to be responsible, staff are asked to check if they are covering in another room for any care plan to know the needs of all the children they are caring for.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

## 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 inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

#### **General Safety:**

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Medicines, hand sanitisers and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

## Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Individual bed linen was provided for the children in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms. Staff stated that bed linen was laundered weekly.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of mouthed toys.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.

## Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Garda Vetting was available for two staff members. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

### Infection Control:

Inspectors observed a number of practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

2. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection in the service were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure as follows:
  - Staff were observed to redress children with the same used gloves following nappy changes.
  - Children's hands were not washed following nappy changes.
  - A staff member did not wash their hands between nappy changes.
  - The nappy changing mat was not cleaned between nappy changes.
3. The pedal function on the pedal bins in the nappy changing areas in the Wobbler, Toddler and Early Start rooms were not working. Staff were observed lifting the lid of the bins to dispose of waste. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

4. There were no cushion covers on the cushions in the rest areas in the Toddler room. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
5. The blue paper towel for hand drying was not stored in dispensers in the nappy changing areas in the Wobbler, Toddler and Early Start rooms or in the Wobbler care room. Staff were observed handling the entire roll of paper to break pieces off for hand drying.
6. The laminate layer of the children's sink unit in the ECCE Preschool room had broken away in places exposing an unfinished wooden surfacing that could not be effectively cleaned.
7. The steps up to the nappy changing table in the Early Start room were not appropriately cleaned and had a build-up of dust and debris. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 April 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
8. In the Wobbler room, sticky tape which had been placed around the mat beside the children's sink was coming away and contained accumulations of dirt and debris which could not be effectively cleaned.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. Garda clearance for both staff members had been applied for at the time of inspection and are both here and on file. Always renew all staffs garda vetting on time.

##### Infection Control:

2. Staff were retrained on the nappy changing procedure, we spoke about the importance of always taking care of infection control.
3. New nappy changing bins were supplied to the wobbler, toddler, and early start preschool room We spoke about the importance of noticing these things health and safety issue and reporting it to management if bins etc. needs to be fixed or replaced. Bins will now be checked on the end of day routine to make sure they are in perfect working order.

4. On the day of inspection, the dryer was broken it was fixed that evening. We are changing over to soft rubber wipeable cushions.
5. Staff have been reminded not to have blue roll in the nappy changing area and to use the hand towels supplied from the dispenser already in the nappy changing area, a blue roll dispenser has been fitted in all childcare rooms.
6. A new unit has been fitted in the preschool room around the sink. All staff have been informed when completing daily risk assessment forms in each room that they must ensure to look for any broken faulty areas. They have all been reminded of the importance of informing management if any equipment/furniture needs replacing. Maintenance book is now in the managers office. All staff must come and enter any faults, repairs, replacements to the book and inform manager.
7. I spoke to staff in the room about the importance of this area being cleaned regular, the cleaning of the nappy changing area in all rooms including the stairs have been added to the end of day routine. Cleaning of the nappy changing area in all rooms including the stairs have been added to the end of day routine.
8. The mat has been replaced with a new mat. Because of water at the sink from the children washing their hands we will change the mat more often.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

1. Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

#### **Infection Control:**

2. Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
3. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

4. Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
5. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
6. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive action submitted by the registered provider.
7. Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
8. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required*

### Non-Compliance Information

(c) A strong odour was present in the nappy changing area and in the Wobbler room.

(d) An accumulation of dust and dirt was observed in the mechanical vent in the nappy changing area in the Wobbler room.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)(d)

All vents have been cleaned. We have put the cleaning of the vents on the end of day routine.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective actions submitted by the registered provider.

## **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.