

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS059
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Four Seasons Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Scouts Den, Tymon Bawn Comm Centre, Firhouse Road West, Tallaght, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 K524
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Eileen Keogh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	13
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<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 Duff
<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

Four Season preschool is a private childcare service and has been in operation since 1999. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged two to six years of age. The service operates two sessions daily from 8.45am to 11.45am and 12pm to 3pm Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year.

The service operates from a large room within a community centre in a residential area of southwest Dublin. The children had direct access from the room to an enclosed garden area which the service has exclusive use of during the operation of the service.

### Staffing

The service currently employs seven staff members. The registered provider does not work in the service. On the day of inspection six staff members were present and working directly with the children.

### 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child, information and records and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3)(4) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

Regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child.

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of 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 inspector wishes 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*
- (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*

*(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, both were on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The inspection included a review of the required documentation for one staff member employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 07 November 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the seven staff members employed in the service. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Of the two written and validated references that were required, one was available from a past employer, and one was available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for seven staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2)(a)(b)(c) had been carried out prior to one adult commencing employment in the service since the last inspection on 07 November 2023.

(4) Records were available evidencing that one staff member employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 07 November 2023 who was employed to work directly with the children held at least the required award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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)  
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 sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 19 children attending the service being supervised by 4 staff members during the morning session and 13 children being supervised by 5 staff members during the afternoon session.

### 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 records of 10 children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

(a) The name and date of birth of each child.

(b) The date on which each 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) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.

(f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner was available.

(h) Record of immunisations received by the child was detailed.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) was open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

## 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-

(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 inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection. Staff members were attentive and responsive to the needs of the children throughout the morning and afternoon and were observed to respond to children in a calm and relaxed manner throughout the inspection. The staff provided children with comfort when needed. Staff were observed to spend time sitting with children to support completion of tasks and during conflict situations.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to the outdoors and to alert them of mealtimes. The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents/guardians in advance of enrolment. Children brought lunch from home which was closely monitored by staff for choking hazards. Meals times were social occasions with children and adults sitting together having the opportunity to chat about activities, staff provided children with help when needed. Drinks were readily available within the care room.

Children were encouraged to clean up after themselves and assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times.

Child sized tables and chairs allowed the children to eat and engage in tabletop activities. There was evidence that equipment and materials provided were based on the children's individual needs and emergent interests. The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving units and accessible to children.

Children spent time outdoors throughout the morning and were dressed appropriate to the weather, wearing wellington boots and coats. The large outdoor area was equipped with a range of toys and materials to support play experiences. Children were observed to make choices about spending time outside or additional time indoors with staff preparing the room.

Engagement with families and parents is facilitated by the daily sharing of information on the child's day. This is shared through conversations at drop off and collection and supported by electronic means. Staff reported that children's learning records are also sent home regularly and parents/ guardians are included in planning. On the day of inspection transitions from preschool to home and home to preschool were observed to be friendly, informative and engaging to parents or guardians collecting 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- When the inspector arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was enclosed, restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Medication and cleaning agents to include disinfectant sprays and liquids were stored in a locked cupboard or on a high shelf out of reach of children.
- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable, safe and secure with domestic bins stored out of children's reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards.

##### Infection Control:

- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, paper towel, liquid soap, and pedal operated bin.
- The children were supported by staff members to wash their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection

##### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and evacuation procedures were on display in the care room.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

In the children's care room:

1. A mesh grid on the top of a radiator cover was loose fitting and sharp. This was accessible to children and posed a potential risk of injury to a child if they touched it.
2. Electrical cables from a phone charger, string lights and extension cable were hanging down in reach of children during the inspection posing a risk of injury to a child.

- A PVC wire used to hang pictures was in reach of children during the inspection posing a risk of injury to a child.

### Infection Control:

- The children's tables and chairs were heavily stained and soiled, they required a deep clean. Children used the tables and chairs to engage in activities and for eating. This poses a potential risk of cross contamination to children.
- The floor mats used by the children to play on where stained and dirty, they required a deep clean. Children were observed sitting on the mats. This poses a potential risk of cross contamination to children.
- In the children's care room, the aprons used by the children for painting were heavily soiled and torn on the edges, this poses a potential risk of cross contamination to children.
- Parts of the walls and skirtings were heavily soiled and required a deep clean. This poses a potential risk of cross contamination to children.

### Administration of Medication:

- During the inspection staff members identified 3 children who occasionally require asthma inhalers. Procedures to safeguard children when administering this emergency medicine were not available for review. Staff members stated that medication is not routinely administered however emergency medication is administered when required.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated:

#### General Safety:

- The mesh grid has been removed from the top of the radiator, checking the radiator will be added to the safety checklist in the service.
- The electrical cables have been removed, any item that requires charging will be charged out of reach of children. The room leader will monitor all electrical points for trailing wires.
- The PVC wire has been removed; children's artwork will be dried on a pegged carousel.

#### Infection Control:

- The tables and chairs have been deep cleaned, new wipeable tablecloths have been purchased to cover tables for mealtimes.
- The large floor mat has been removed and replaced by smaller washable mats, individual vinyl covered cushions have also been ordered.

6. The painting aprons have been replaced by new aprons
7. The walls and skirting boards have been deep cleaned; staff members have been appointed specific tasks to ensure the room remains clean each day.

**Administration of Medication:**

8. Care plans have been developed for the three children requiring them, care plans will be developed for all children requiring them in the future. The children's enrolment forms will be used for reference.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

**Infection Control:**

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

**Administration of Medication:**

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

**Summary Comment**

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.