

# 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 Community 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(s) of Inspection:</b>	07/11/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM	19
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child & Family Agency, 1st Floor, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mary Redmond
<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

This private childcare service has been in operation since 1999. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged two to five and a half 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

There were seven adults employed in the service. 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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on areas of governance and health, welfare and development of child.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

The following regulation was not part of the inspection plan so therefore the non-compliance was reported:

Regulation 8 Notification of change in circumstances

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 reoccurring. 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 designated person in charge and staff who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider had not notified the Agency (Tusla – Child and Family Agency) in writing of the change of the person in charge of the service as listed in Schedule 4.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)  
A Change in Circumstance (CIC) form has been submitted. Changes will be notified within the required time frame in the future.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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, 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

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for five adults employed in the service.
  - (b) Appropriate references from other sources were available for two adults who did not have previous employers and for two other adults who were present in the service on the day of inspection.
  - (c) Garda vetting was available for nine adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for two adults for whom it was required.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were three adults working directly with twenty children in the first session and two adults working with nineteen adults in the second 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A random selection of records were reviewed for ten children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (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, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

## Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The date on which children first attended the service was not recorded.

(c) The documentation available did not support the recording of the date when children would cease to attend the service.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)(c) This information is included on the registration form and will be recorded for all children.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Child record form template

## Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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;*

## Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Documentation was available to record children’s attendance in written format.

(i) A staff roster was available.

### 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)

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection including eating together, playing together and other interactions between children which were well managed by adults who were caring for them.

Adults working with children ensured that their individual needs were identified and met effectively, including children with additional needs. There was appropriate support from adults for children to negotiate resolutions rather than solving problems for them. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, by tidying up and putting on their own coats.

During activities adults used opportunities to extend children's learning and development using appropriate language which children identified with as activities were based around children's interests. Children's choices were respected, for example during "circle time" when children did not choose to participate, they were facilitated with other activities. Adults working with children modelled good language skills describing what children were doing and providing new words to build on their vocabulary.

The materials and equipment were presented effectively and included a good range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials which were well organised and provided ample opportunities for children to participate in activities. There were opportunities for sensorial play through the provision of a sand table and play dough.

The outdoor area provided opportunities for gross motor activities through the provision of climbing frames and balance bikes and sensorial play through the provision of a large outdoor sand pit.

Children spent a large portion of the session outdoors which included having their snack sitting at tables outside.