

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS089
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Wonder Years
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	110 Whitehall Road West, Perrystown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 TY06
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Katherine Boyle
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	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. Brien
<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

Wonder Years is registered to provide part time care for children from 2 to 6 years of age. The service operates from 09:30 to 14:00, Monday to Friday and also operates a sessional service from 10:00 to 13:00.

The service operates from a unit adjacent to the registered provider's domestic dwelling in an urban area of south Dublin. The premises consists of one care room and sanitary accommodation. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There were two adults employed to work directly with the children which included 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 the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

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

- 9 - Management and Recruitment,
- 11 – Staffing Levels,
- 19 – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 – Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child,

25 – First Aid,

26 – Fire safety measures.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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, person in charge 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 who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)(3)(4)

The requirements for regulation 9(2)(3)(4) were met during the last inspection of the service on 13 December 2021 in respect of the adults currently employed. Therefore, regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was not assessed during this inspection as no new adults had commenced employment in the service since the last date of 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 part time day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirteen children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

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

### 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 children bring in their lunch from home. Lunch took place at 11:15 and children who are attending on a part time basis had an additional meal between 13:00 and 14:00. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day and children were given water with their meal. Staff supported children who needed assistance with their lunch. Staff were observed sitting with children at lunch time and children were observed engaging in conversation with their peers and staff during their meal. Lunch time was observed to be a relaxed, sociable occasion with children given time to finish their meal.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after lunch and cleaning children's noses as required. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play and meal.

The service had a key person system in place and staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's positive behaviour policy. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed. Children demonstrated a sense of pride in their success during their activities and were observed calling on staff members to share their achievements. A child was observed asking a staff member to take a picture of their play to share with their parent. Staff were observed acknowledging children's achievements and efforts positively.

Transitions within the service were managed well and children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. A timer was used to manage the transition between activities.

Children's choices were respected with children given the opportunity to choose how they wanted to greet the adults on arrival to the service. The service had a greeting choice visual display on the door with pictures of different greetings including handshake, hug, high five, fist bump and wave. Children were observed being asked by staff how they wanted to say hello when they arrived.

The staff described how they communicate with parents daily about their child at arrival and collection time.

The care room was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included a home corner, construction toys, jigsaws, a rest area with books, and small world play materials. The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care room. The children's art work was displayed in the care room.

A fully enclosed outdoor area was located to the rear of the premises and had artificial grass surfacing. A range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided in the outdoor play area. Children were observed accessing the outdoor play area on the day of inspection and engaged in energetic and imaginative play.

## 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 inspector 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.
- Hand sanitisers and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- Cables and cords were secured out of reach of 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. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

#### Administration of Medication:

- The service had an administration of medication policy in place. Practices in line with this policy were observed on the day of inspection. There was a documented care plan available for one child attending the service who required emergency medication. Staff were aware of the treatment plan and demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the procedures to follow if the medication was required.

## 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

(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.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no one immediately available to the children who was trained in First Aid Responder training. It is acknowledged that the person in charge was trained in paediatric first aid.

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

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

Two staff are booked on to a FAR training course commencing on 28 June 2023. We have completed a service reminder list which is on the wall of the classroom to enable us to make sure nothing goes out of date.

#### **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 this non-compliance. This action will be assessed on the next inspection

## 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 28 April 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 September 2022 and 07 October 2022 for the smoke alarms.
  - (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.