

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS115				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	StartBright St. Ronan's				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Ronan's Resource Centre, Deansrath, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D22 DP99				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Elaine Mcquillan				
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	8 February 2023				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>13</td> <td>PM</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </table>	AM	13	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Floor 2, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Fiona Carty				
<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

Startbright St Ronan's is one of seven not-for-profit childcare services operated by the registered provider located in an urban setting in South West Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 3 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm for 38 weeks of the year. The premises is located in St Ronan's Resource Centre and comprises of one care room, a large indoor hall used for gross motor play and an outdoor area to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

There were four adults present on the day of inspection including the person in charge who did not work with the children directly.

### 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.

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

*(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

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of two new staff members who the person in charge had confirmed that had been recruited since the last inspection dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

(2)

(a) Three written past employer references were available in respect of two employees.

(b) One written reference from a source other than a past employer was available for one employee who only had one previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both adults.

The inspection focused on the recruitment records of two new staff members who had been recruited since the last inspection dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. The inspection also focused on the outstanding non-compliance from the previous inspection under regulation 9(4) in which one staff member did not have the required qualification.

- (2)
- (a) Three written past employer references were available in respect of two employees.
  - (b) One written reference from a source other than a past employer was available for one employee.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both adults.
  - (d) None of the new staff members had lived outside the state for more than six months as an adult and therefore did not require police vetting.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to a person being employed in the service.
- (4) Both staff members held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at minimum Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*
- (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 with the children at all times. There were three adults working directly with thirteen children.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times.
- (8)(a) There were four adults on the premises during the inspection and staff reported there are a minimum of two adults present 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

- (1)
- (h) A written record was available in each care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
  - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.
  - (j) Signed parental consent was available to administer temperature reducing and emergency medication.
  - (k) A sample of accident and incident records were reviewed and were signed by staff and adults and completed appropriately.

## 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,

#### Compliance Information

The children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff and the environment. The rooms had clearly defined interest areas such as home corner, construction area, art area and book corner, with soft mats and cushions. Materials and equipment were stored on low level shelves and had a variety of small world play and puzzles available to the children. The children also spent time outdoors which contained two separate areas for play, one with natural grass and plants, this area contained climbing materials including a tyre swing, and a slide. A smaller area was available for the children where the children used ride on toys which help develop gross motor skills. All children utilised the outdoor area on the day of inspection.

The care room was bright with lots of natural light. Family photographs and children's artwork were displayed on the walls. Food was provided by the service and it included a sandwich, fruit and a yoghurt. The room has child sized tables and chairs for children to sit at for mealtimes and table top activities. Staff were observed to sit with children throughout the session and assist them with a variety of activities including playdough, painting and construction games.

Children were comforted in a timely manner and their feelings were acknowledged when situations arose. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require support

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. Staff reminded them to wash their hands at appropriate times and to put on their coats before going outside. The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. The children were observed to use the toilet independently when they needed Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision when required whilst also supporting the children's independence.

The service communicated with the parents using an online application which uploaded observations and information in real time.

## 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

Measures had been taken to safeguard the children as outlined in the examples below:

#### General Safety:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children

#### Infection Control:

Children washed hands after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap and paper towels. Pedal bins were available throughout the service.

Cleaning schedules were available, records are signed off on a daily basis and were up to date on day of inspection.

#### Administration of Medication:

Staff stated to the inspector that no child had been given medication since the previous inspection. The staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedures to follow in order to ensure the children's safety if they required medication, including obtaining written parental/guardian consent.

#### Fire Safety:

The emergency exits were unobstructed. Evidence of regular recorded fire drills were observed by the inspectors.

### 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) A person with current first aid training was available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was always available for use.

### 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 fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022, and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had also taken place on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The inspector reviewed documentation that demonstrated the service had current insurance cover for 22 children attending on a sessional basis.