

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS124
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Name of Service:	Rowlagh Parish Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Rowlagh Community Centre, Neilstown Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
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Eircode:	D22 FN25
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sr. Nuala O'Brien
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/01/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla – Child & Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive County Dublin A96P3Y6
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Rowlagh Parish Playgroup is a community service providing the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for children aged 2 to 5 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 12.30pm. The service is located in Rowlagh Community Centre, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Care of the children is facilitated across two care rooms named the Blue room and Red room. An outdoor area is accessible from each room and the children have regular access to the centre's hall.

Staffing

In total seven staff members are 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 the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety. The inspection 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

(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,*
- (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.*

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who could deputise as required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times on the day of inspection.
- (2) In total seven adults are employed in the service. The designated person in charge reported that one new staff member was employed since the last inspection on the 11 of December 2021. The inspection process included a review of the file for the new staff member and Garda vetting disclosures were inspected for all staff employed in the service.
- (a) Two written validated references were available from a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff employed in the service. 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) Not applicable the staff member did not live outside the state for longer than six months.
- (4) There was evidence available to demonstrate the adult employed had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were fifteen children attending the service being supervised by five adults and the designated person in charge was also available to support the staff as required.

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

(1)(a) The inspector observed that the children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the staff and the environment. Both pre-school rooms were laid out in an open plan allowing staff to easily supervise the children while also supporting their independence. Equipment and materials were stored on open shelves - visible and accessible to the children. Areas were clearly defined to maintain focus, including home corners, reading, dress up clothing, arts and craft and construction areas. Each area was well resourced with suitable toys and play equipment to support children's learning and development. The children explored the environment and engaged in self-directed play as well as activities including making shapes with play dough and singing. Children had opportunities for collaboration and discussed their ideas with the staff. They were immersed in a variety of activities throughout the morning. Areas with mats soft seating and cushions were available for children to rest or take a break from activities.

The environment was calm with staff managing transitions and activities effectively through implementing a daily routine. Snack time was sociable children and staff sat together and engaged in conversation. Warm interactions were observed between the children and staff Drinking water was freely available. Children used the toilet independently while being closely supervised by staff.

Children had the opportunity to play outside. The outdoor play areas were well resourced with a variety of toys and play equipment including bikes, balls, swings, a planting area and a sand box. Children were observed to be happily engaged on the swings and bikes.

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:

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. Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children. All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained. Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of waste.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

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

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Submitted garda clearance for two staff members. Keep up to date and follow procedure, check staff files regularly

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Copies of updated Garda vetting for two staff.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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) There was evidence to demonstrate that staff had paediatric first aid for children and they were immediately available to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available.

(b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the service at all times.

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) The registered provider maintained a record of the fire drill completed. The last fire drill was carried out on the 13 of January 2025.

(b)The maintenance record for the fire fighting equipment was available and dated the 25 May 2024 and the maintenance for the smoke alarm was dated the 29 October 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.