

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS150
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	St Marks Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Mark's House, Cookstown Lane, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 PK6P
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	James Morrissey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	40	PM	40
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill
<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

St Marks Pre-School is a community-based service registered to provide part-time and sessional care and education to Pre-School children aged two to six years. The early years service operates from 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday. The early years service is based in a purportedly adapted two storey farmhouse located in Tallaght Dublin 24. There are two rooms on the ground floor named room 1 and 2 and two rooms on the first floor named room 3 and room 4. There is an outdoor play area at the front of the building and a new enclosed green space to the side of the premises. The service also has access to a large sports hall at the rear of the site.

### Staffing

In total twelve staff are employed in the service. The designated person in charge and the registered provider do not work directly with the children. On the 11 April 2024 eleven staff worked 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 area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

9 (2)(a)-(d), and (4) Management and Recruitment,  
11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels,

16(h), (i), (j), (k) Record in relation to pre-school service,

19(1) (a),(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

26 (1), (a), (b) and (4) Fire Safety Measures

however, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 15 (1)(i) Record of a pre-school. 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 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.*

*(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

(2) The inspection focused recruitment records for twelve staff employed in the service. These records met the Regulatory requirement as follows.

(a) & (b) Twelve written validated past employer references were available. Three written references were available from a reputable source for members of staff who had only one previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána for all staff employed in the service.

(d) International police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the state as an adult for more than six consecutive months.

(4) A record was available evidencing that eleven adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification. One adult did not work directly with the children and did not require a childcare qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a), (b) Four adults did not have two written validated references. Five adults did not have a second written validated reference on file.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Written references have been obtained and validated. The manager will be sure to have two validated written references on file prior to any staff member starting.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Written records submitted.

## Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted under Regulation 9 (2)(a) and (b). The Regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 forty children attending the service being supervised by twelve adults on the day of inspection.

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

## 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:*

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

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i) The service did not have written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of a medical emergency.

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

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

Management has devised a consent form to tie in with our incident/accident policy to have consent from parents in the event of a medical emergency. All parents will receive a copy of our accident/incident policy and requested to return consent for file.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence.

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted under Regulation 15 (1)(i). 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;*
- (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

- (h) Details of the attendance of each child in the service were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.
- (i) The staff roster was available.
- (j) Records were available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
- (k) The service maintained a record of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

### 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

(1)(a), (b)

The designated person in charge ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. The service had a healthy eating policy. Parents provided nutritious and varied lunches. A hot meal was offered by the service for children attending part-time. Lunchtime was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience. Staff sat with the children, engaged in conversation and helped them as needed. Children who wore nappies had them changed as required. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. There was a calm atmosphere in the service. Children were familiar with their care givers and the daily routine. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and they demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care.

All of the care rooms were suitably equipped with designated areas of interest. Toys and equipment were easily accessible from low level shelving provided. During the morning children were actively engaged in a variety of activities of their choice, including colouring, building blocks, making jigsaws and sensory play with sand. All children had an opportunity to partake in physical activity. Staff reported that each room has a designated time to use the indoor hall and outdoor play area. During the morning room 2 used the indoor hall, children had access to bikes, cars and balls. Children were observed to enjoy this 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

##### General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was safely secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children leaving unsupervised.
- All toys and play equipment was safe for the age group using them and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The kitchen was not accessible.
- fire exits were unobstructed

##### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play after using the toilet and before meals.
- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of waste.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Fire Safety:

1. Monthly fire drills were not completed. The last recorded fire drill was on the 31 January 2024 this pose a potential risk to the safe evacuation of the children in the event of a fire.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Fire Safety:

Management has appointed a designated person as fire Marshall who will be responsible for carrying out monthly fire drills Management is devising a policy to support the role of fire Marshall. The fire Marshall's responsibility will be to carry out the monthly fire drill and will be given a fire safety policy outlining her role as fire Marshall. The fire Marshall will keep any staff up to date with evacuation points and make sure all rooms keep a log of fire drills.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### Fire Safety:

Written evidence.

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted under Regulation 23 Fire Safety. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 of the last fire drill was recorded as being undertaken on the 31 January 2024.
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarm on the premises was available. The maintenance records were dated the 6 December 2023 and the 15 March 2024.
- (4) The notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were clearly displayed in the premises.