

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DS213 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Learning For Life |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | DTTLB Campus, Esker Hill, Lucan, Co. Dublin |
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|                 |          |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | K78 K120 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Sinead McCarville |
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|                      |                                |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 03/04/2025 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 52 | PM | 50 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | 1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | Sarah Quigley, Fiona Carty, Geraldine Kavanagh  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspectors  |

### 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).

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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable |
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### Description of service

Learning for Life is a privately owned service which was established in 2013 by the current registered providers. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged 0-6 years and also offers an early childhood care and education scheme. The service is registered to operate from 07:00 to 18:30 each weekday and is located in an urban area of Lucan, South County Dublin. The service operates from a purposely adapted two storey premises and consists of three care rooms. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available and located to the front of the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs fourteen staff members, including the registered provider. On the day of inspection twelve adults were present including 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/ 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of regulation 9(2)(3)(4) for six adults who were employed to work in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- (a) (b)
- The registered provider appropriately verified the references obtained from two sources for each of the six adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the six adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for each of the six adults who required it.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified under Regulation 9(2) had been carried out prior to the adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) The six adults held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were fifty-two children present in the service being supervised by nine adults during the inspection. The person in charge provided relief cover to the care rooms when 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-*

*(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)

Staff reported that regular meals are provided to the children in attendance daily by the service which are prepared on site, including a hot meal which is provided by an external catering company and re-constituted on site. Snacks are provided by the parents/guardians of the children in attendance. Staff members sat with children during mealtimes and encouraged younger children to feed themselves. Drinking water was accessible to the children and rest areas were available in each care room. Children were comforted promptly when they became upset. Staff spoke respectfully to the children and demonstrated warmth and kindness during interactions observed by the inspectors. The children were observed to be content and engaged in their child led play during the inspection and staff demonstrated an awareness of children's individual needs during discussions with the inspectors. Staff members intervened early during minor disputes between children and promoted positive behaviour management. Children were encouraged to be independent in their care rooms including tidying up after activities and meals.

Younger children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after lunch time. Staff members stated any child who required a sleep outside the prescribed time would be accommodated in the sleep room. Staff made children comfortable for sleep removing shoes and outer clothing and provided comforters and soothers to those who used them

The programme of care in place in the service was observed to be play based and child led in approach. The care rooms were adequately resourced with a variety of play materials that were accessible to the children on low level shelving units, providing the children with choice in their chosen activities. An outdoor play area was available to the children.

### 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 inspectors 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 toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. The care rooms and outdoor play area were observed to be safe and free from hazards.

#### Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff and children were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.

#### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. Individual care plans were in place for children requiring emergency medication.

#### Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the care rooms where children slept, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's

ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept was maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

- Some of the nappy changing practices observed on the day of inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the policy and associated procedures in place as follows;
  - One staff member did not wash their hands after changing a child's nappy.
  - Children's clothes were put on with the same gloves used to change and discard of soiled nappies. A staff member was observed assisting a child with handwashing still wearing the soiled gloves.
  - The nappy changing mat was not cleaned between some nappy changes.
- The covering on a sofa in the Challengers room was torn in parts and could not be effectively cleaned.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

- All staff have been retrained in the nappy changing procedure. The nappy changing procedure has been placed on the wall of each changing room in step by step photographs to support staff to follow procedure correctly.
- A new sofa has been purchased and the old one discarded.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

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)

An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of 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) Records were available of fire drills that have been carried out in the service.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment was last serviced November 2024 and the smoke detection systems were last serviced March 2025.

(4)

Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

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