

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY069		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Fionn Ghlás Early Years Hub		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	2A North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D11 CP58		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	John O'Neill		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	10/05/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	26	PM 19
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Foley		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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.		

### Description of service

This service is one of three childcare services run by the registered provider. The childcare service is on the ground floor of a multipurpose building.

The service offers full day, part-time and sessional childcare and education for children aged from 1 to 5 years old.

The service participates in the early childhood care and education (ecce) scheme.

Opening times are from 8.45am to 1pm and from 1pm to 5pm daily.

The service is registered to cater for a maximum of 52 children.

There are 3 childcare rooms, a kitchen and an office.

Each care room has a small outdoor play area easily accessible directly from the room. Also, there is a large outdoor play area at the side of the premises.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection, there were 7 childcare staff including the person-in-charge, 1 kitchen staff, the cleaner and the CE scheme supervisor present in the preschool. The main entrance door was locked, and an intercom system was in place and reception staff monitored and managed access to the service. Staff used a keypad with a code system for entrance to the building.

### 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2) & (4), regulation 11(1) & (2), regulation 15 and regulation 25(1) The findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 management and recruitment and regulation 15 Record of a preschool child. The scope of the inspection included the Baby room and the Preschool room and did not include the Toddler room.

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

The files for 15 adults who work at the service were reviewed. This included the files of 9 childcare staff and 6 auxiliary staff.

(2)(a) Two adults had 2 validated written references from a past employer available for inspection.

Four adults had 1 validated written reference from a past employer available for inspection.

(b) Nine adults had 2 validated written references from a source other than a past employer available for inspection.

Four adults had 1 validated written reference from a source other than a past employer available for inspection.

(c) The required garda vetting documentation was available for inspection in each of the 15 files reviewed.

(d) On review of the files, it was noted that international police vetting was not required.

(4) On review of 9 childcare staff, there was documentary evidence to show that 9 held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above 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.*

*(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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

**In the Baby room**, there were 7 children aged from 1 to 2 years old attending a part-time service and 2 staff members.

**In the Toddler room**, there were 8 children aged from 2 to 3 years old attending a part-time service and 2 staff members.

**In the Preschool room**, there were 11 children aged 2.5 to 5 years old, 8 were attending a sessional service and 3 were attending a part-time service. There were 3 staff members.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.

### 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:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(2) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of 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 particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The files of 7 children currently attending the service were reviewed.

The information required to address (a) to (i) above was available on each file.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were 3 First Aid Responder (FAR) certificates with an expiry date of August 2024 available for 3 staff members who work directly with the children.