

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY083
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Name of Service:	Glenhill Playgroup
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Address of Service:	Glenhill Lodge, Glenhill road, Finglas East, Dublin 11
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Eircode:	D11 X3WD
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Name of Registered Provider:	Frances O'Toole
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/12/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	<p>Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K</p>
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
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

Glenhill Playgroup is one of five childcare services run by Finglas Community Playgroup Association Ltd and is a sessional service providing early childhood care and education to children from 2 to 6 years of age from 9.00am to 12.30pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

The service operates from one care room located on the ground floor of Glenhill Lodge which is a two-storey community building in a residential area of Finglas East. There are sanitary facilities available to the children on this floor. The outdoor play area is located in an enclosed area to the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service along with two staff who are employed to work in the service with the children. These staff members and the registered provider were present on the day of the inspection.

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 and facilities. 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 registered provider, 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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-

- (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

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the staff sign-in documents showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) Staff in the room reported there was a clear management structure in place.

(2) Discussion with the registered provider and a review of documentation established that there were no staff new to the service since the last inspection in February 2023. The Garda vetting for the three staff members was requested for review.

- (c) The Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff members employed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their care needs.
- (3) The adult to child ratios was correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Three staff were allocated to work directly with 9 children who were present.

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)
- (b) The following suitable practices were observed:
- Practices such as toileting were observed to be timely experiences. The children were respectfully invited to use the toilet, and those toilet training were reminded in a respectful manner to use the toilet.
 - The staff interacted with the children in a warm, sensitive and responsive manner. Appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication such as low tones, encouragement, regular check in, and following the children's interests were observed. These strategies can facilitate emotional and social development in young children.

- The experiences and activities provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children. For example, the children were observed to have the freedom to move freely through the room and choose their own activity or could choose to join in adult facilitated group activities such as jigsaws.
- Children’s behaviour was supported through positive strategies such as clear instructions on unacceptable behaviours and supporting children to resolve their own conflict when there was a minor disagreement.
- Daily routines were available and were reflected in practice.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the room were observed to be adequate for the number of children, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children, and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children. Equipment available included sand, arts and crafts, role play, dress up, small world play, jigsaws, matching and connecting toys, construction, cars and books.
- The equipment was grouped into themed interest areas and there was an adequate supply of resources, props, materials and accessories available to the children.
- There was a cushioned seating area adjacent to the books for children to engage in restful activity. There was also an armchair positioned away from the main play areas where there were sensory toys and headphones available to facilitate a solitary break from activities.

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 registered provider ensured the following measures were in place to safeguard children:

General Safety:

- The main entrance to the service was secure when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service, and the internal door had a door latch up high out of reach of children which prevented them from exiting the service unsupervised.
- The radiators in the care room were covered effectively.
- Cleaning products and hazardous items were observed to be stored up high out of reach or in a locked press.
- There was documentary evidence available of a risk assessment for the outdoor play area.
- Sand was cleaned up immediately after sand play, minimising the risk of slips.
- Children were supervised appropriately when leaving the room to use the sanitary area.

Infection Control:

- Children were supported to tend to their personal hygiene through practices such as being reminded to cough into their elbow, a focus on self-care was included in the plan for learning for the month of December, and a self-care station with tissues was accessible to the children.
- Liquid soap, thermostatically controlled warm water and individually dispensed paper towels were available to support effective handwashing.

Outing:

- The registered provider reported that the children in the service had not recently been on an outing and that they used the enclosed outdoor play area to the side of the premises for outdoor play.

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 firefighting 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) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 17 October 2025. The registered provider reported that a fire drill was carried out in November but a record of this was not documented.
 - (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced in October 2025, and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 3 October 2025.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display in the care room.