

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY086
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Griffith Community Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Griffith Community Hall, Griffith Road, Finglas, Dublin 11.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D11 YE98
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Orla McGrath
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/04/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Kerrigan
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Griffith Community Playgroup was established in 2002 as part of a community based childcare service. It is one of six services run by the Finglas community playgroup association. The service offers sessional and parttime childcare to children aged between 2-6 years old. The service operates from 9am to 2pm Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. Since 2021 the service has been located in a purpose-built single-story premises consisting of a reception area, office, kitchen, one large care room with adult and child sanitary facilities. The outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs four staff and also works in the service. On the day of inspection there was four adults present providing direct care to the children within the service. The deputy person in charge facilitated 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Preschool Record. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the one care 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 deputy 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
- (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-

- (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

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that the person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure within the service, this was clearly displayed on the wall in the hallway and through conversation with staff present on the day.

- (2) The files of five adults working within the service, to include the registered provider and a relief staff member were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that six written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that four written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
  - (c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the four staff members who work directly with children. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the five adults working within the service being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The registered provider and the four adults who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.*
- (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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. Four early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of nineteen children who were present on the day of inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in the staff roster.
- (8)(a) Through review of the staff roster and conversation with adults present on the day, the registered provider ensured that there were two adults present during the operational hours of the service.

## 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:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

(k) A sample of ten accident and incident forms were reviewed and found to be fully completed with all the necessary details included.

(3) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection on the premises by the inspector.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and wellbeing is facilitated within the service in the following ways.

#### Basic Needs:

- The children were provided with regular lunch and snacks throughout their time in the service. Lunch and snacks were prepared at home and brought into the service. On the day of inspection children were observed to have a selection of sandwiches, various fruits appropriately cut, crackers and cheeses. Children drank from their own water bottles. The service has a Healthy Eating Policy, and this was reflected in the food choices on the day. Mealtimes were observed to be social and pleasurable experience for the children, at a pace that best suited the children's pace.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- Children's independence and self-care skills were encouraged within the service. For example: a child was observed to have a runny nose, staff took the time to educate them on nasal hygiene and hand hygiene techniques. A nasal hygiene station was set up in the care room with a mirror and tissues to focus and develop these self-care skills.
- A number of children in the care room were observed to be toilet trained. Toileting was undertaken on a scheduled basis and as needed, children were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet with staff promptly picking up on children cues for assistance, whilst providing positive praise with children's efforts. This was completed in a dignified and child centred manner.

#### Supporting Relationships.

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and respectful manner, sitting with children during play and mealtimes. Involving themselves in children's play experiences when invited. This provides opportunities to support children's learning and development.
- Adults within the service were observed to speak to each other in a professional and respectful manner.

- The service operates an open-door policy with parents, with pick up and drop off times being utilised to share information about the child's day, this is further supported through the use of a mobile application which is used to share weekly updates. A learning journal is also maintained for each child, these are given to parents or guardians throughout the year bridging the gap between home and preschool.

## Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a range of equipment available including mark making, a home corner with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting and books to facilitate language and early literacy development.
- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging. Arts and crafts reflecting the theme of the month was also displayed across the care room, adding to a sense of achievement.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment throughout the day. This is scheduled but also available to children if and when they needed. This area had absorbent flooring, and mulch, set across different gradients. An assortment of tyres, mud kitchens, swings, climbing ropes, playhouses giving an array of options to develop gross motor skills. There were relaxing areas for children who chose more restful 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

##### General Safety:

- The main entrance to the service was secure upon the inspector's unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The ambient room temperatures within the service were kept between 18-22°C.
- The outdoor area was fully secured with high walls and fencing, this was accessed via a locked gate.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained throughout. Cleaning schedules were on display through the service outlining frequency of cleaning.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing potential cross contamination.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand drying purposes, ensuring good handwashing practices.
- Lunch boxes which contain perishable food items brought in from home were refrigerated upon the child's arrival to the service. This reduces the risk of harmful bacterial growth.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were not routinely given within the service however staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required. Temperature reducing medication were safely stored within the service and available for use if required.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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 ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated the 31 March 2025.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced on the 25 March 2025, and the number type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on the 25 March 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the inspector, these were displayed in the hallway.
- (4) A notice of procedures was clearly displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.