

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY096
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cooperative Housing Ireland
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	166 Island Key, East Wall, Dublin 3, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D03 EW60
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Catherine O'Brien
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/08/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	22	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne
<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

Cooperative Housing Ireland is a community based childcare service located in Dublin 3. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9am to 12.35pm for 38 weeks of the year and cares for children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service has two care rooms – Room 1 and Room 2 with sanitary facilities, a nappy changing room, a kitchen, a library, a staff room and an office. The outdoor play area is to the side of the premises. A school age service is also provided

### Staffing

On the day of Inspection, there were 5 adults present - The designated person in charge who provides support when required and 4 staff members working directly with children. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a)

## Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection included the two care rooms.

The adult child ratios were assessed across the two care rooms during the inspection.

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 files of five adults were reviewed as part of the inspection

(a)(b) Ten written and validated references were available in relation to five adults employed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for five adults. 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 available for one staff member who had lived outside of Ireland for a period of more than 6 months.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the five adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### 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.*

*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 that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. During the inspection there were 4 adults working directly with 22 children aged between 2 to 6 years.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection as the table below demonstrates.

Room Name	Age profile	On inspection
Room 1	2 years to 3 years 6 months	2 adults with 9 children
Room 2	2 years to 4 years 6 months	2 adults with 13 children
Total	(2years to 6 years)	4 adults with 22 children

The person in charge was available in a supernumerary capacity and covered in rooms as required.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises.

## 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 rooms were bright and inviting play spaces to enable children to explore their environment.
- A range of play materials and equipment were easily accessible and suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room nurturing children’s independence, ability to make decisions, enabling exploration and develop their play opportunities.
- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room.
- Cosy areas with couches, cushions, blankets and soft rugs for rest and relaxation were present.
- The enclosed outdoor play area was available for the children which consisted of one area with a soft artificial surface. The equipment and toys available included a slide, water tables with equipment, mud kitchens, scooters and trikes providing learning opportunities for 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

##### General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secure with a locked door and an intercom doorbell system, enabled access to parents and visitors, preventing a child from exiting the building unsupervised and an unauthorised adult from entering.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Attendance records were completed with time of arrival and departure of each child from each care room
- No trailing flexes were observed throughout the service.
- The outdoor area was enclosed securely and the outdoor play equipment and materials were observed to be safe and suitable for use by the children.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean and hygienic condition throughout, with the premises and equipment observed to be visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Windows were open in the care rooms allowing for the circulation of air.

### 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) The service provided evidence that four adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each care room.

### 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)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 27 August 2024.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced on the 19 March 2024 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 15 April 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises