

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY144
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Mother of Divine Grace Community Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Riversdale Sports Club, Glasnevin Ave, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D11 N765
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Jacinta Gorman Rigney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Nelson
<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

Mother of Divine Grace Community Playgroup is a sessional day care service located in a residential area of north Dublin and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 22 children aged 2 to 6 years old, from 9.00 to 12.00pm Monday to Friday during school term time. The service is one of five services operated locally by Finglas Community Playgroups.

Mother of Divine Grace Community Playgroup operates from the club house of Riversdale Tennis Club and has one care room available to the children. There are sanitary facilities located off the care room for staff and children.

### Staffing

There are currently three staff employed by the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children and manages the oversight of the service; and two further childcare staff. All three staff 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. 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-*

- (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 service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place which was displayed in a prominent position on the notice board in the care room.

(2) The files of the three staff were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a)(b) Six validated written references were available from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer for the three full files reviewed.

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

(d) Documentary evidence showed that one adult had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adult and international police vetting from that state was available for inspection.

(3) Documentary evidence available showed that all of the checks outlined in (2) had been carried out prior to any of the adults having contact with the children in the service.

(4) The three staff 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, Equality, Disability, Integration 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.*

*(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.*

*(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) (3) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

There were three staff available to the 17 children aged between 2 to 4 years old.

(8) The review of the staff roster showed there was a minimum of two adults on the premises during the services operational hours.

### 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 service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the rooms was observed to be adequate for the number of children in the room, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children in the rooms, and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.

- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children in boxes labelled with imagery and text to provide clear direction where equipment can be found. This facilitates comfort and confidence in knowing where things go.
- Children’s personal belongings were clearly identified using individual symbols and the children’s names. This can facilitate familiarity with text and early literacy development.
- Equipment was grouped in themed areas of interest such as art and craft/ messy area; floor play area; home corner and library area. These areas were clearly indicated with imagery and text. Themed areas of interest assist children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.
- Each of the themed interest areas were well resourced with a wide range of props, materials and accessories accessible to the children including sand, paint, and a broad range of table top activities.
- The toys and equipment available facilitated a range of play experiences including fine motor, imaginary, sensory, creative, literacy and numeracy play experiences.

### 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 entrance to the service was managed and monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises, and the door lock was up high out of reach of children to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- All cleaning agents and sharp equipment were stored out of reach of the children in locked presses or on high shelves.
- The electric radiators were appropriately covered to prevent access.
- Corner pads were fixed to the corners of the shelving units.
- Blind cords were observed to be secured.
- Staff were observed to clear the floor after a play dough activity to prevent slip risks.
- Staff were observed to be positioned throughout the room to effectively supervise the children.

### Infection Control:

- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the room.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Children were observed to handwash before lunch.
- Children were supported to clean their noses and dispose of the tissue appropriately.
- There were foot pedal operated bins available throughout the premises.
- Children's lunches were stored appropriately refrigerated.

### 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 a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school. All three staff member were trained to First Aid Responder level.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the 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 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

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1)(a) A record of fire drills was available on the premises. The last drill was dated as having been carried out on the 25 May 2024, prior to the service closing for the summer months. The registered provider reported a plan is in place to have a fire drill later in the month of September.
- (b) An up-to-date maintenance record was available for the fire extinguishers and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were serviced on 18 October 2024 and the smoke alarms were maintained on the 10 July 2024.
- (4) A procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care room.