

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY195
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Name of Service:	ChildVision Early Years Service
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Address of Service:	Grace Park Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9.
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Eircode:	D09 WK0H
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Name of Registered Provider:	Audrey Farrelly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	J. McKimm
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).

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Description of service

The pre-school operates from the ground floor of the main building located on the multipurpose ChildVision campus. The preschool caters for children with visual impairment and consists of three care rooms named 1,2 & 3, sanitary facilities, an office, staff kitchen and a nurse's station. Each care room has a small kitchen unit located within the room. There is an outdoor play area located at the back of the building.

The service is registered to operate between 9.30am-12.30pm and 1.00pm and 4.00pm and is currently operating a morning session 9.30-12.30pm. The service provides sessional pre-school care and education to children from 0 to 6 years of age. and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

Equine therapy is available on site to the children attending the service.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The person in charge and the deputy person in charge work daily in the service in a supernumerary capacity. There are thirteen staff members employed in the service. This includes the person in charge, deputy person in charge and four nursing staff, who provide nursing care and support. The person in charge noted that there is one member of the nursing team on duty during the operating hours of the service. On the day of inspection there were seven early years staff members working directly with children.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and 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 person in charge, 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,,*

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- (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) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
 - (b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.
 - (c) Staff were clear around their roles and responsibilities and reporting structures within the service.
- (2) The files of thirteen staff members were reviewed. A garda vetting disclosure for the registered provider was also reviewed.
- (a) There were twenty-six written and validated references available from a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and thirteen 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 six adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to thirteen adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Evidence showed that eleven adults who worked directly with early years children 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, Disability, and Equality.

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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) The registered provider ensured that staffing levels were adequate to respond to the individual needs of the children throughout the inspection. There were eight adults caring for eight children on the morning of inspection. The management team reported they are available to provide cover where required.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children

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 following activities, interactions, materials and equipment was observed to support children's learning and development.

Basic Needs.

- Children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they communicated comfortably with the inspector and were keen to show their toys and playthings to the inspector.

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- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care room where possible and independently access play equipment of their choice. Staff were kind and consistent in their support of children while they explored their environment.
- Children brought their snacks from home and were given ample time to enjoy their snack. Staff supported children eating their snacks encouraging self-feeding where possible and ensured that this was a social experience for the children chatting and singing to them throughout snack time.
- The presence of a visual daily routine on display provided the children with a sense of stability, security, and predictability. In addition, staff were observed to give children verbal reminders in advance of moving from one activity to the next activity.

Supporting Relationships.

- Children's emotional well-being was supported by staff who showed an interest in children's activities by asking questions, taking part in their play, encouraging them to interact with other children and staff members.
- Children's behaviour was managed using positive age-appropriate strategies such as intervening immediately when minor incidents arose and offering comfort when needed.
- Children's language development was supported through conversations, activity times, circle time, and storytelling activities which were observed during the inspection.
- Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the care rooms, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service. In addition, children had their own individually labelled coat hooks.
- Staff discussed how parents are welcomed into the service and how a communication log is completed daily for each child and is given to parents at collection time
- Staff were observed to speak to each other in respectful and warm manner.

Physical and Material Environment.

- The furniture provided in the care 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 specialist equipment available throughout the service to encourage mobility and support visual impairment helping the children to navigate their environment safely and engage more fully in learning and play.

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- The rooms were well laid out with designated areas of interest to provide for distinct types of play and learning. For example, kitchen area, cosy corner, construction area and a sensorial area with sand pits and play mats. Each area was well equipped with equipment and materials that promoted fine motor skills, mathematical conceptual understanding, language development and movement.

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 door leading into the premises was through the main reception area and was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The inspector was asked to show identification and sign in the visitor book.
- Internal doors were secured with locked half door gates ensuring children could not exit the rooms unsupervised.
- The kitchenette area in each of the care rooms was secured with a locked gate and was inaccessible to children throughout the inspection.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- All the furniture, toys and equipment were observed to be in good condition in the rooms.
- All window blinds were appropriately secured.

Infection Control:

- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care room and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- Children's lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated within each care room to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, and hand drying facilities.
- The premises was observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition.

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Administration of Medication:

- Care plans were available for children with a specific medical condition. The early years staff are supported by nursing staff to help meet the individual medical needs of each child. There is a nurse on duty during the opening times of the service.
- Emergency medication was clearly labelled and stored safely.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency and fire exits were signposted and unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point. The children's attendance book was monitored to ensure staff knew how many children were present in the care room and during outdoor play. This ensured a safe evacuation of the children in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The service did not ensure that an ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care rooms. It is acknowledged that the windows in all care room were open to allow for circulation of fresh air and that all blinds were pulled down in Room 1 which had a recorded temperature of 23°C on the morning of inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

- The service has purchased Dyson air coolers, installed egg thermometers in the room and introduced a room temperature checklist. The daily checklist will be completed hourly going forward. In addition, an outer layer of clothing will be removed from the children if required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 23 has been addressed.

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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) There was documentary evidence to show that three adults held certification in First Aid Response training and that one adult was rostered to on the premises at all times. In addition, there is a member of nursing staff on duty during the operating hours of the service.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the adults caring for the children and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care rooms.

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

- (1)
- (a) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 13 March 2026.
 - (b) Records demonstrated that the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place in January 2026.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.