

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY251
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Community Pre-School Playgroup
-------------------------	--------------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Mourne Road National School, Mourne Road, Cumlin, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 CF5X
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Chris Kerrigan
-------------------------------------	----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/11/2023
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28
-----------------------------------	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
---	--

<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Sarah Quigley
----------------------------------	---------------

<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
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

The Community Preschool Playgroup is a community based service which was established in 1997 by the current registered provider. An Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme is provided on a sessional basis 38 weeks of the year to pre-school children aged 3-6years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based, emerging curriculum. The hours of operation are from 09:30 to 12:30 each weekday. The service is located in an urban, residential area of Drimnagh, Dublin 12 and operates from two classrooms within the Mourne Road National School. An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 5 staff members who all work directly with the children, including the registered provider. On the day of inspection the registered provider and 3 staff members were present.

### 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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises 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

*(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

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of each of the 5 adults employed to work in the service. The following records were available for the 5 adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from 2 sources for 4 of the adults, and from 1 source for 1 of the adults.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau for the 5 adults.

(d) Not applicable, international police vetting was not required by the adults.

(4) There was evidence that each of the adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

9(2)(a)(b)(3)

There was no second validated reference available for 1 of the adults who had commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection. The procedures outlined under Regulation (9)(2) were therefore not completed prior to the adult commencing employment in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The service received a second reference by email for 1 adult prior to her employment but the provider forgot to print it off. The reference is now on paper and in her file.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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)
- An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3)
- The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 28 children present in the service attending on a sessional basis being supervised by 4 adults during the inspection.

## 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:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record was available in the two care rooms detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
  - (i) A staff roster was available and displayed in the service.
  - (j) Written records of the administration of medication were not available in the service as no medication had been administered to a child. Appropriate documentation was available to record the administration of medication if required.
  - (k) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection. A sample reviewed documented necessary details.

## 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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

Staff demonstrated kindness and warmth during all interactions observed by the inspector, and comfort was provided promptly to a child if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a clear awareness of each child's individual care needs and demonstrated this during discussions with the inspector and in one-on-one interactions with children. The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led, and children were visibly content and engaged in their play based activities throughout the session. Praise and encouragement were offered consistently towards the children and staff took part in play only when invited by the children. Staff were observed using prompts to extend learning and expand conversations when facilitating play. Children were consistently interacting with their peers and the staff members present and were encouraged to take turns and resolve conflicts themselves, creating a language rich environment in the service.

Drinks of water were accessible to the children in the care rooms at all times. Staff supported handwashing for the children at appropriate times throughout the inspection including after using the toilet and before meals. Staff encouraged the children to be independent in their environment by allocating tasks including cleaning up following meals and play, and handing out drinks at break time.

### 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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

##### General Safety:

The entrance door into the school building was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, after activities, and before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

##### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

#### Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Cleaning products including bottles of bleach and disinfectant sprays were accessible to the children on the day of inspection in an unlocked low-level press posing a risk of harm to a child if ingested.

### Infection Control:

2. Bins in the care rooms were not pedal operated. Children were observed handling the bin lids after cleaning their noses and pushing soiled tissues into the lids to open the bins posing a risk of cross contamination.
3. Paper towels used for drying hands in the children's bathrooms were not stored appropriately in dispensers. Staff and children were observed handling large rolls of paper towels following handwashing to break off pieces posing a risk of cross contamination.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

1. There has always been a child safety lock on the press. A staff member had opened the lock to retrieve an item from the press, the staff member was called by one of the children and forgot to lock it as she walked away to attend to the child. The children were sitting down at tables for lunch at the time of the incident. The service will ensure the press is always locked.

### Infection Control:

2. Bins have been replaced in both rooms to pedal operated bins.
3. Paper towel dispenser has been fitted in the bathroom.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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)

A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

### 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) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service.
  - (b) There was record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place as required.
- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed during the inspection evidences that the service was adequately insured for the number of children in attendance and the type of service provided.