

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY275
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Name of Service:	It's A Small World Playgroup
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Address of Service:	169 Cromwellsfort Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Deirdre Kelly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

It's A Small World is a privately owned service which was established in 2002 by the current registered provider. The early years' service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme on a sessional basis to pre-school children aged two to six years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The hours of operation in the service are from 09:30 to 12:30 each weekday.

It's A Small World is located in an urban area in Walkinstown, Dublin 12. The early years service is provided in a purpose built wooden cabin to the rear of a domestic dwelling which is the registered provider's home. The premises consists of one open plan pre-school room and children's sanitary accommodation. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is situated to the front of the premises with artificial grass surfacing that children have access to on a daily basis.

Staffing

There are two adults currently employed to work in the service, including the registered provider. Both of these adults were present during 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/ information and records/ 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 15.

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 member 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

No new adults had been employed to work in the service since the last date of inspection on the 3rd December 2021. The requirements for Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) were met during previous inspections of the service in respect of the registered provider and the other adult currently employed in the service. Therefore, the inspection of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements detailed in 9(2)(c), the findings were as follows:

- Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau were available for the two adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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 fourteen children present in the service being supervised by two adults during the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)

A sample of documentation was reviewed by the inspector in respect of twelve children in attendance to assess compliance relating to the records of preschool children maintained in the service. The sample of documentation reviewed evidenced that records were kept in writing in respect of pre-school children attending the service detailing the information outlined under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i).

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 record was available in the care room detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection. A review of documentation evidenced that attendance records had been maintained daily in the service.
 - (i) An accurate record was available in the service detailing hours of work for both staff members in the service.
 - (j) There were no written records of administration of medication available in the service. The registered provider stated medication had not been administered to a child in recent years and is not typically administered in the service. However, the necessary documentation was available to record the administration of medications if required.
 - (k) There were no records of accidents or incidents which had occurred in the service available. The registered provider stated no accidents or incidents had occurred in the service in recent years. However, appropriate documentation was available to record any accidents or incidents that may occur in the service.

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

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection.

The routine of the service was child led, and children were visibly content and happy in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. Children moved freely around the room throughout the morning engaged in a wide range of activities including imaginative play, tabletop and construction activities. Staff supported children in their play, sitting with them and involving themselves when invited by a child or by using prompts to extend play and learning. Staff were responsive to children's individual needs and communicated well with the children, using kind tones and gentle language during interactions.

Staff sat with children engaged in conversation when they ate. Children were encouraged to be independent in using the toilet, cleaning up after activities and doing jobs in the classroom. Minor disputes between children were managed in a calm manner with staff promoting conflict resolution, and comforting children if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of children's individual care needs during discussions with the inspector and were regularly observed taking the time to have personal one on one conversations with 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

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

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access 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. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

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 and before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. The registered provider outlined that 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 temperature reducing medication, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector.

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.

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 who had been trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) was available to the children 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.

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. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in January 2025.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframe.
- (4)
The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within each room in the service.