

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY327
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Inchicore CDT Children's Project
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	135 Emmet Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D08 FP44
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Stuart Fraser
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	20/09/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	6	PM	6
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill
<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

Inchicore CDT Children’s Project was established in 2004 as a community based children’s project for children whose parents and family members live with the impact of drug or alcohol misuse. The early years service facilitates parents to attend the services of the addiction team and is registered as a part time service. The service caters for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between 9am and 5pm.

### Staffing

In total five staff are employed in the service. On the 20 September 2023 the designated person in charge and two staff worked directly with the 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

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations;

- 9 – Management and Recruitment,
- 11 – Staffing Levels,
- 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service,
- 19 – Health, welfare and development of child,

23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

25 – First Aid,

and 26 – Fire Safety. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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,*

*(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 inspection focused on recruitment records for the five staff employed in the service.

(a) Written validated references were available for all staff from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for five staff members employed in the service.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) A record was available evidencing all staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

## 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.*

*(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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for part time day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were six children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times.

## 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) Staff maintained a daily attendance record detailing the arrival and departure time of children attending the service.
- (i) The staff roster was available.
- (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a pre-school child.
- (k) Details of any accident or incident were recorded as required in the accident and incident book. All forms were signed by parents and staff.

### 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 designated person in charge reported that breakfast and a hot meal are provided daily in the service. For breakfast children were offered cereal and toast. At lunch time chicken curry and rice was served. Suitable cutlery was provided. Mealtimes were sociable children sat together and were given plenty of time to enjoy their food. Drinking water was freely available and accessible to the children.

Younger children's nappies were changed as required during; this time staff spoke kindly to the children. Older children were encouraged and observed to use the toilet independently.

Staff used a play-based approach adopting the Highscope curriculum to support children's learning. The room was organised and labelled to promote independence and encourage children to carry out their intentions. Designated interest areas included a home corner, shop, dress up clothing, a construction area and a library area. Each area was well resourced with suitable equipment. A cosy area was available for children to rest. A child who was tired was facilitated to sleep in a cot. The room was made conducive for sleeping; with relaxing music and dimmed lighting. Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and provided additional support when required. All children spent time in the outdoor area. The outdoor area had an artificial grass surface and was partially roofed. A variety of equipment was available including balls, a football net, a rocking horse, bikes, scooters and a sand pit. Suitable bench style seating was available to allow children to rest.

### 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 safely secured. A security camera and intercom system was provided to allow authorised access only to the premises.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- Cleaning agents and medication were clearly labelled and safely stored.

#### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. Children washed their hands at regular intervals including following outdoor play and using the toilet and before meals.

#### Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedure to follow in the event that a child may require medicine.
- Records were available of previous medications given. The forms were completely correctly including the time and date medication was given, the name of the staff who gave it and the signature of a second staff as a witness

#### Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The monthly fire drill had not been completed by staff as per the service's policy. The last recorded fire drill was completed on the 29 June 2023. Failure to complete a monthly fire drill may pose a risk to the safe evacuation of

the children in the event of a fire on the premises. This non-compliance was found on the last inspection on the 6 May 2021.

### **Infection Control:**

2. Nappy changing practice was observed. Staff did not wash children's hands after nappy changing. This was not in line with the service's nappy changing policy and may pose an infection control risk.
3. The bin provided in the children's toilet was not pedal operated. It had a swing lid posing a potential infection control risk.

### **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

#### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

##### **General Safety:**

1. Following the inspection, the person in charge had a conversation with all staff and indicated that a fire drill must take place once a month. The fire drill roster for the service has been amended, ensuring that a fire drill is due to take place once a month and was shared with staff. In response, a fire drill was planned and took place within a week, on Friday 29 September at 12 o'clock. The designated person in charge was assigned responsibility for both conducting and recording monthly fire drills. This will be discussed at the next team meeting.

##### **Infection Control:**

2. Staff have been reminded of the service's nappy changing policy and have been requested to follow this policy. A simplified step-by-step nappy changing procedure list has been placed on the wall in the nappy changing room alongside the full, in-depth nappy changing policy. The designated person in charge or a named deputy will encourage staff to follow the service's policy. Staff have been requested to re-read the nappy changing policy and to sign off on this by the person in charge. This will be discussed at the next team meeting.
3. To improve infection control, a pedal operated bin has been ordered online and will be placed in the children's toilet. The previous swing lid bin has been removed. Children will be encouraged to use the new pedal operated bin when disposing hand tissue etc. Staff have been informed of this change and have been instructed to support children in operating the pedal bin.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

##### **General Safety:**

Written evidence.

### Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence.

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. 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 for children was immediately available at all times on the day of inspection. Three staff had certificates in First Aid Responder training that were valid until 12 December 2023.

(2)(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and 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 of fire drills that had taken place in the service.
  - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 13 December 2022 and 29 July 2023 for the smoke alarms.