

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY387
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Babes in the Wood Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Cedar Brook Walk, Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D10 W297
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Maria Sobczyk
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/06/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	59	PM	50
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L. Magee & F. Carty
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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

Babes in the Wood is located in a single storey purpose-built building, in an urban setting of Cherry Orchard, Dublin 10. Full-time, part time and sessional care is provided to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to provide care from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday. There are 5 preschool rooms and a dedicated sleep room. A large enclosed outdoor play area is available to the children to the rear of the building. A registered school age service is also provided.

### Staffing

The service employs 16 staff members. This includes two designated people in charge, a deputy person in charge and 13 childcare employees. On 18 June 2024, there were 11 adults working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service

### 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 areas of governance and health, welfare and development of child and information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels,

Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to a Preschool Service

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance of records under regulation 15 and regulation 16. The scope of the inspection included the Baby room, Wobbly 1, Wobbly 2, and Preschool room.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the persons 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.

(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.

(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 person in charge and a named persons to deputise.
  - (b) The person in charge was present on the premises during the inspection.
- (2) Two new members of staff commenced working in the service since the last inspection dated 4 July 2023. These two staff files were reviewed as part of the inspection process and for the purpose of assessing compliance with this regulation. Garda vetting disclosures for sixteen adults were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (a) & (b) Appropriate consideration had been given to the references of all adults. References had been sourced and verified from past employers and from other sources where an employee had only one or no previous employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all sixteen adults and were dated within the last three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required as none of the adults had lived outside the state for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Two new members of staff who were working directly with children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 11 adults working directly with 59 children.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement was maintained 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

A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The required information was available as outlined below.

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service was recorded on nine registration records.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending on nine registration records.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted was recorded on nine registration records.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child. was recorded on eight registration records.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child was recorded on nine registration records.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner was recorded on nine registration records.
- (h) Immunisation details were recorded on seven of the children’s registration records.

(i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

## Non-Compliance Information

(b)-(h) One child's registration record did not have the particulars for sections b – h.

(e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect one further child were not recorded.

(h) Immunisation details were not recorded for two further children.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

All files have been reviewed and updated with the information that was not provided. All files of new children will be checked thoroughly prior to admission of the child/children.

Manager and deputy manager is obliged to verify all information provided by parents and complete data in the event when parents omit anything

### Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of completed registration forms were submitted.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documents meet the requirements of Regulation 15.

## 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) Details of children’s attendance was available included the time they arrived at and left the service.
- (i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times of all adults.
- (j) Records were available of medicines given to children. These included signed parental consent.
- (k) Records were available detailing accidents, injuries and incidents involving 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

##### General Safety:

Appropriate measures had been taken to safeguard the children as outlined below:

External gates and doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. Heavy equipment was secured to prevent tipping and injury. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. Toys and play equipment observed in use by children on the day of inspection were safe and in working order.

##### Infection Control:

Appropriate measures were taken to reduce the risk of infection spreading as outlined below:

Children were supervised washing their hands after outdoor play, after using the toilet and before eating. Staff washed their own and children's hands after nappy changing. There was evidence the policy on nappy changing was being implemented, staff changed their gloves at appropriate intervals and disinfected the changing mat after each child. Soothers were stored in individual containers; sterilizing equipment was available for use as needed. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal operated lidded bins. Individual bed linen was provided. Cleaning schedules were in place.

##### Safe Sleep:

Staff had a clear understanding of the safe sleep policy which safeguards the children when sleeping. Cots and low-lying beds were available for the children to sleep appropriate to their age and stage of development. Sleep checks were conducted and recorded on the children at 10-minute intervals. The room temperature when the children under 12 months were sleeping was maintained between 16-20 degrees Celsius.

##### Fire Safety:

Staff were aware of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. Regular fire drills were conducted in the service.