

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY403

**Name of Service:** St John of God Liffey Early Services

**Address of Service:** 25 Cork St., Dublin 8, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** D08 YD91

**Name of Registered Provider:** Daniel O'Byrne

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date(s) of Inspection:** 12/01/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>AM</b>	2	<b>PM</b>	2

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Eimear Griffin
<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

St. John of God Liffey Early Services was established in 2009 as a playschool for children with Intellectual and physical disabilities aged from 2 to 6 years old. The service operates from rented accommodation which is part of the Sophia Nurturing Services. St John of God services rent one care room and have the use of a shared kitchen and office area, sensory room and an outdoor play area which is located at the front of the premises. The service also offers an Early Starters programme for children aged from birth to 2 years old. This programme is by appointment only and offered to parents who attend with their child for 1 ½ hour per session. The service opens for 44 weeks of the year. It is closed for 5 weeks during the summer, for one week in October, at Christmas and at Easter. The sessional service offers childcare and education from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 13.30pm to 4 pm

### Staffing

The registered provider employs five staff to work in the service including the person in charge and a social care leader. The deputy person in charge and one staff member were present on the day of inspection; two of whom were working directly with the children in the service. The registered provider and the person in charge do not work directly with the children 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, 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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(4)-Management and Recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(3)-Staffing Levels.

Regulation 19(a)-Health, Welfare and Development of child.

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

Regulation 25- First Aid

Regulation 26- Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28- Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9 - management and recruitment, 9 (1)(a)(b)(c), 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), 9(4), regulation 19- health welfare and development of the child, 19(a) and regulation 23- Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of a child.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. The scope of the inspection included the one care 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider via phone consultation and the 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,
- (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 has a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

- (b) Discussion with management showed that the person in charge or/and the deputy person in charge are rostered to be present on the premises at all times.
- (c) There was a clearly defined management structure in the service. Staff identified the person in charge and deputy person in charge to the inspector.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the deputy person in charge showed that there are currently five adults employed in the service including the person in charge, three staff and a social care leader. The files of three staff who provide direct care to the children and a staff member who provides support to the service on a monthly basis were reviewed.
- (a)(b) Eight written and validated references were available in relation to four staff.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for five staff members including the person in charge who does not work directly with the children.
- (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Documentation was available to show that three adults who worked directly with children attending the service 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 and Youth Affairs.

### 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)(3) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children and that the ratios were maintained at all times; two staff were caring for two children on the day of inspection.

## 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 observations are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

#### Basic Needs:

- Comprehensive individual care plans were in place for all children who attend the service. Staff discussed how these plans were developed in partnership with parents/guardians and members of the Childrens Network Team. The individual care plans are updated as needed, with a focus on the child's strengths, clearly defined goals and an outline of the strategies and resources required to achieve these goals.
- Staff were observed interacting with the children in a sensitive, warm, respectful manner. They were attentive to the children as competent contributors and could read their cues. For example, when a child showed no interest to paint a picture, the staff member encouraged the child to choose another activity that they would like to engage in for activity time.
- Nappy changing was done routinely before snack times and as needed to ensure the child's comfort.
- There was a soft child sized couch where children could rest and take a break from activities.

#### Supporting Relationships:

- Relationships with parents and families were supported through the recording of information using a software technology application. Information of the child's daily record which detailed toileting/nappy changes, pictures of activities and daily observations on the child's day was shared with parents/guardians electronically. Conversations with parents/guardians were also observed at drop off and collection and staff discussed how they facilitated parent/teacher meetings throughout the year.

- Staff were able to discuss how the service supports children to integrate and settle into the service by accommodating parent/child visits before the child begins. This is followed by a settling in period with reduced hours adapted for each individual child to ensure a smooth transition from the home to the service.
- Children were exposed to Irish Sign Language within the service. Staff were observed to communicate with children using this method of communication. Staff discussed how they teach children different signs each week and the Irish Sign Language signs were displayed on the wall of the care room. Exposure to Irish sign language supports communication and language development.
- Positive links with the local community in which the service is located have been established, and staff discussed how they regularly collaborate with another service located in the premises to plan networking opportunities for children and staff.

### Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture and equipment in the room was positioned to facilitate children to engage in solitary, small group and large group play. The service is wheelchair accessible, and staff have access through the Childrens Network team to specialized equipment if required for a child. This supports children to engage independently with their peers.
- Equipment available included a library, arts and craft area, various sorting, stacking, measuring, and connecting equipment, construction materials, sensory materials, building bricks and jigsaws. These play materials facilitated literacy and numeracy development, fine motor skills, and cognitive and language development.
- Children have access to an outdoor play area at the front of the building.

### Programme of Activities:

- There was a visual display of the daily routine on the wall. This provided children with familiarity and predictability in their day. The daily routine included: free play, circle time, activity time, snack time, sensory room and outdoor play time.
- The children were observed to be engaged with staff at circle time. During this time the children and staff sang a song about the winter. Children were given a choice of which song they would like to sing. This was followed by phonics and bubble blowing. Staff discussed how circle time always ends with blowing bubbles as the children love this activity.

### Non-Compliance Information

On the day of the inspection children were observed to drink fruit squash from bottles which is not in line with the service policy on healthy eating.

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

#### Corrective Action

The registered provider has submitted the St John of God Liffey Early Services Healthy Eating Protocol which has been updated to reflect the needs of the children that the service supports.

#### Preventive Action

The registered provider has sent in the St John of God Liffey Early Services Risk assessment in relation to this topic.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- Healthy Eating Policy
- Risk Assessment on Tooth Decay

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service have addressed the non-compliance identified. The regulatory requirement has been met for Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child.

## 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 service entrance was securely locked on arrival to the building and remained locked throughout the day which prevented unknown persons entering the premises and prevented children leaving the service unsupervised.
- Staff greeted the inspector at the door of the service to allow entry and exit and a written record of attendance was maintained.

- Internal doors were fitted with high up positioned twist locks which prevented children leaving the care rooms unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- Electrical cables and flexes were adequately secured out of reach of the children.
- Cleaning supplies were secured and out of reach of the children.

### Infection Control:

- Warm water, dispensed soap and paper handtowels were available to support adequate hand hygiene both in the care room and the sanitary accommodation.
- The children were observed to be facilitated to wash their hands before eating and after nappy changing.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the service by means of openable windows.
- The premises was observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition with documented cleaning records available.

### Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, it was observed that all fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helps ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of a fire.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. On the day of the inspection, it was observed that the pedal bin in the nappy changing area was not working. Staff were observed to open the nappy bin lid with their hands during nappy changing time. This increased a risk of cross infection.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Infection Control:

##### Corrective Action:

The registered provider has stated that the owner of the building has agreed to replace the existing broken bin with a fully foot pedal operated bin.

##### Preventive Action:

The registered provider has stated that all staff will ensure that they report any issues with the nappy bin to management as soon as possible going forward.

#### Infection Control

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- No documentation submitted

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service have addressed the non-compliance identified. The regulatory requirement has been met for Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child.

### 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 evidence to show that two staff had completed First Aid Responder Training and were available to the children attending the service during the operational hours of the service.

(2) (a) (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in the care room. The location was easily identified and was readily available for use as needed.

## 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 record of monthly fire drills was available in the service. The most recent fire drill took place on 10 January 2024.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available.
- Records showed that the firefighting equipment has been inspected yearly with the most recent inspection on the 24 March 2023.
  - Records showed that the smoke alarm system has been serviced yearly with the most recent service taking place on the 24 March 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed inside the entrance of both care rooms.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured. The insurance documentation provided for review showed cover for the number of children that the service is registered for and can accommodate at one time.