

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY407
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Precious Children Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	37 Ravensdale Park, Kimmage, Kimmage, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 FE4F
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Caroline Cummins
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	23	PM	20
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<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>	S 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
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### Description of service

Precious Children Childcare is a privately owned early years service which is located in a residential area of Kimmage, South County Dublin. The early years service offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme on a sessional and part-time basis to pre-school children aged 2-6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. The early years service is registered to operate from 09:00 to 13:55 and 14:00 to 17:45 each weekday. The service operates from the ground floor of a purposely adapted commercial unit and consists of three care rooms, two of which were in operation during the inspection. An outdoor play area is available on the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs eight staff members, not including the registered provider. On the day of inspection, five staff members were present including two staff who worked in administrative roles.

### 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/ information and records/ 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 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

Documentation was reviewed in full in respect of Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) for two adults who had commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection on the 10 May 2022. Regulation 9(2)(c) was reviewed for all adults working in the service. The following documents were available;

- (2)
- (a) (b)
    - References which had been appropriately verified were available from two sources for both of the adults.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the eight adults working in the service. However, the service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years, as detailed in Regulation 23.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for the two adults who both required it.
- (4) Documentation reviewed evidenced that both of the adults held a relevant 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 23 children present in the service being supervised by 3 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;*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(h)

Details of the attendance of each child was recorded in the service 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

The inspector observed that the children's learning, development and well-being was supported by the staff and the environment. Equipment was available in the care rooms to support a range of play experiences and the rooms were laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for personal belongings. There were defined interest areas including construction areas and home areas. There was a variety of equipment and materials, including books and mark-making materials visible and accessible to the children on open shelves. Areas with soft seating were available for children to rest or take a break from activities. Children's identity and belonging was promoted through art displays and family photograph walls. Drinks of water were always available.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. The children used the toilet as they needed with staff reminding and assisting them to wash their hands afterwards. Younger children had their nappies

changed regularly and as required. The inspectors observed the staff interacting warmly with the children, engaging positively and supporting them in their work and play.

### 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 toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. The care rooms and outdoor play area were observed to be safe and free from hazards.

#### Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff and children were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.

#### 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:

The service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years for one adult employed.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

Updated vetting was obtained and a list has been made of vetting dates to ensure compliance.

### Supporting documentation submitted

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

## Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### Compliance Information

(d) The care rooms and sanitary areas of the service appeared to be clean, well maintained and repaired on the day of inspection.