

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL028				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Blakestown and Mountview NYP Creche				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Shelerin Road, Clonsilla, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin				
<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 VYCO				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Susan Maples				
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	29/07/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>1</td> <td>PM</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	AM	1	PM	5
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<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>	E. 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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable.

### Description of service

Blakestown and Mountview NYP Creche is a sessional and part time service which is located in North Dublin and provides a service to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. The service is open from Monday to Friday, with a morning session from 9-12pm and afternoon session between 1:30 and 4:30pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) programme for 38 weeks of the year. There are two care rooms: Room 1 and Room 2. Room 1 offers both a morning and afternoon ECCE session, Room 2 provides a morning ECCE session and an afternoon service for school-aged children from 1:30 to 4:30pm. During the summer, when the ECCE programme is not in operation, the preschool children and school aged children are combined for afternoon activities. On the day of the inspection Room 2 was closed. The service is located on the ground floor of a community project building and has two large outdoor plays areas.

### Staffing

There are ten adults employed in the service including the registered provider who works in a supernumerary capacity. On the day of the inspection there were seven adults present including the registered provider, receptionist, two childcare staff and three adults employed through the community employment scheme working in a supernumerary capacity providing support in the care room.

### 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 following regulations were reviewed:

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

Regulation 11(1)(2)-Staffing Levels.

Regulation 15- Record of a Pre-School Child.

Regulation 16-Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

Regulation 19(1)(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.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Room 1 the one preschool room which was open. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under: Regulation 15, Regulation 16, Regulation 19 and Regulation 23.

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 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 had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.

(b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.

(c) The service had a clear management structure in the service and staff were aware of their own role and responsibility.

(2) A review of the roster and conversation with management showed that there are currently ten adults employed to work in the service including the registered provider, receptionist, five childcare staff and three adults employed through the community employment scheme who were present in a supernumerary capacity.

(a) Eleven written and verified references were available from recent past employers.

(b) Nine written and verified references were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures had been obtained for all ten adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of six adults from five different countries who had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Evidence was available to show that the registered provider and five 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, Equality, Disability, Integration 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.*

*(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) The registered provider ensured there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection as follows:

##### During the morning:

Room One- There were two childcare staff caring for one preschool child.

##### During the afternoon:

Room One- There were two childcare staff caring for five preschool children and six school aged children.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises at all times, evidenced by the staff roster presented on the day of 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.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.

#### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of ten children's files were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured that the information required under (a)-(i) was maintained for each child.

(3)(c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

### 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:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult:child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*
- (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.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there was a record kept in writing of the information (a-i) in relation to the service.

(j) The person in charge confirmed there were no medication administered in 2024. A blank copy sample of the administration of medication form was reviewed, and all relevant details for recording medication if administered were included.

(k) A sample of 10 accident and incident forms were reviewed, and all information was completed in full.

(3) All records and documentation requested by the inspector were available for review.

## 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)

##### Basic Needs:

- Children brought snacks from home. The service has a healthy eating policy which is shared with parents/guardians in advance of enrolment. Children's own drinks were available within their reach throughout the session.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, there was a 'Family Wall' display, a 'Birthday Wall' display and the children's artwork was displayed throughout the care room.
- There was two cosy area with a soft seating, cushions and books for rest and relaxation present.
- Children were observed to access the outdoor play area this supports their social, cognitive, gross and fine motor development.

##### Supporting Relationships:

- The service used an electronic application to communicate with parents and update them on their child's activities. The inspector observed the registered provider and staff greeting parents at drop off and pick up times, and chatting informally to parents about an upcoming outing.
- Transitions were observed to be well managed; children were given five-minute verbal cue and children engaged well with tidying up, putting items away independently and waiting their turn to go outdoors to play.
- The children were observed to be partners in the programme of activities, the staff members were observed asking the children to choose what activity they would like to participate in. Children were observed to engage in artwork, role play and sensory activities including playdough and sand. When one child chose to read alone for ten minutes instead of joining the activities, the staff respected her decision and ensured she was comfortable in the cosy area.

### Physical and Material Environment:

- There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in the care room.
- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and suitable to the needs of the children. Equipment was visible and accessible enabling the children to independently access their choice of activity. Materials and equipment included a sand tray, play dough, art materials, animals, transport vehicles and fine motor skill activities such as beading and puzzles.
- There was evidence that equipment and materials were provided based on children's individual needs and emergent interests. In the care room, staff showed the early years inspector a sensory wall that they were completing, explaining that children's curiosity about different materials led them to create this wall for exploration.
- There were two outdoor play areas available for the children. One is a large, grassed area for running and playing ball, with a partially covered section where the children's graduation is held each year. The second outdoor area featured a wooden school bus with seating, a large wooden castle structure with two slides and climbing walls. The registered provider also showed the inspector a toy storage shed containing bikes, scooters, building blocks and outdoor cushions for the children to use while playing outdoors.

### 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 had a secure entrance in place that prevented the unauthorised access and exit to the service from visitors or children. The inspector was asked to sign the visitor book in reception before entering the service.
- The outdoor area was secured with fencing and was securely gated to prevent unauthorized access and exit of children.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

- All windows in the care room on the first floor had safety devices secured on them.
- All plug sockets accessible to children had socket protector covers.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of the reach to the children.
- Toys and equipment used by the children were observed to be well maintained and in a good state of repair.

### Infection Control:

- Windows were opened to allow fresh air to circulate in the care room.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, and hand drying facilities. Children and staff were observed to wash their hands throughout the inspection, including before meals, after outdoor play and after toileting.
- Pedal bins were evident within the care rooms and sanitary area.
- The equipment, materials and surrounding environment appeared clean on the day of inspection.
- There was a fridge to store children's lunches and staff were aware of choking hazards, including grapes.

### Fire Safety:

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

## 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) The service provided evidence that a person trained in First Aid Responder training was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school. There was evidence that ten adults were trained as a First Aid Responders.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the adults caring for the children 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Documentation was available to demonstrate that fire drills were practiced monthly. The last fire drill took place on 28 June 2024.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in May 2024. Smoke alarms were serviced on 10 June 2024.
- (2)(c) Records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were provided.
- (4) A notice outlining fire procedures was prominently displayed on the premises. Additionally, a child friendly visual aid of the fire exit procedures was placed at children's eye level in the care room.

## 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 33 preschool children and an expiry date of 7 September 2024.