

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL091		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Fairyhill Playschool - Howth Pre-school Playgroup Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tucketts Lane, Howth, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D13 PW99		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Moore		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/11/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Coyle		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Fairy hill Playschool is a community based sessional pre-school service established in this location in 1976. The service caters for children aged 2 -6 years' operating from 9am to 12 midday Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme for 38 weeks of the year.

### Staffing

The registered provider along with 2 additional staff members are employed in the service. One of the 3 staff members is employed to reduce the adult to child ratio, and to work directly with a child with additional needs, when necessary, as part of the access and inclusion model.

### 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/ 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 registered provider, staff member 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

(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 registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.

The files for 3 staff members including the registered provider and a further 2 staff members were reviewed.

(2) (a)&(b) Two validated written references were available for the registered provider.

Two written references were available for 1 staff member.

One written reference was available for 1 staff member.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 3 staff members whose files were reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as a review of the staff files indicated that international police vetting was not required.

(4) The registered provider and 2 staff members all of whom who work directly with the pre-school children in the service, held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a)&(b) A second validated written reference was not available for one staff member.

There was no record that validation of 3 references was carried out to ensure the suitability of the staff members for their roles.

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

#### **Corrective Action**

(2)(a) &(b)

One staff member who required the reference has since left the service.

#### **Preventive Action**

Registered provider will make sure to have the paper work done before the new staff member starts in the service.

### Summary Comment

The staff member who required a second validated reference has left the service and following a discussion with the registered provider it has been confirmed that the outstanding validations for 3 references have been completed, these will be reviewed at the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement for regulation 9– Management and recruitment has been addressed.

### 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) There was an adequate number of staff working with the children on the day of the inspection.
- (3) The adult to child ratio was correct when the inspector arrived for an unannounced inspection and was appropriately maintained in the service throughout the inspection.
- There were 2 adults caring for 10 children aged 2 years 4 months to 4 years 10 months. A staff member was employed to reduce the adult to child ratio to support children with additional needs, when necessary, as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.

### 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 of how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service:

#### Basic needs:

- On arrival to the service the children attending the preschool were engaged in play-based activities in the service. The staff members present joined in with the children's play, used welcoming facial expressions and warm vocal tones and showed an interest in what each child was doing.
- Lunch time was observed to be social and engaging. The staff members sat with the children engaging them in conversation while they enjoyed their snacks and drinks which they brought with them to the service from home.
- The staff members were responsive in attending to children's personal care needs, assisting them to add or remove layers of clothing while playing outdoors and providing discreet supervision children while toileting.
- Transitions throughout the morning were well signposted by staff through the use of verbal prompts which the children responded well to. The layout of the care rooms supported the free unrestricted movement of the children. The children were well supported to move around their play environment choosing what they wanted to play with.
- The staff members supported the children's development of social skills by guiding them in times of minor conflict to listen to each other and to think of solutions together. Appropriate language and tone of voice was used by the adults during these interactions.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The staff members engaged warmly and positively with the children throughout the inspection and displayed that they knew the children well, recognising their individual interests and preferences.
- The children appeared to feel safe, comfortable, and familiar with the staff members and within the environment. This was evident as children called the adults by name, invited them to play, approached them with ease and enjoyed being around them. The children navigated their learning environments freely in the knowledge that their choices and interests would be supported.
- The staff members were observed taking the opportunities to interact with parents at collection time and update them on their children's day in the service.

### Physical and material environment:

- The play materials and equipment in the care room were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which fostered independence, facilitated choice and child-led play.

- In the care room areas of interest were developed including well-resourced home areas with play crockery, cooking utensils, dress up materials, dolls and baby care items, all of which encouraged and enabled the children's imaginary play experiences. Additionally, construction resources, transport toys, arts and crafts materials and a wide range of tabletop resources including jigsaws were available.
- The children's language development was supported through the provision of a range of books located adjacent to the rest area.
- An enclosed outdoor area is located to the side and rear of the service and is directly accessible from the service. The area is surfaced with artificial grass, a climbing frame and slide transport toys, a sand table, a playhouse, a play kitchen and a selection of ride on toys were available for the children to enjoy.

### 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 external doors of the preschool service were appropriately secured to prevent an unauthorised person from gaining access to the children and prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.
- The premises, play materials and equipment provided in the care room and outdoor area were observed to be in a state of good repair.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of the reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to support effective hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation and at the wash hand basins in the care rooms in the service.
- The children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.
- The children's packed lunches, supplied from home, were refrigerated on arrival to the service which reduced the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.

### Administration of Medication:

- No child was observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were clearly signposted and were unobstructed.

## 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

(2)(a)(b) The first aid cupboard available in the service was suitably equipped and located in a conspicuous location on the premises and was available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no staff member available in the service within date first aid response (FAR) training. Three staff members had paediatric first aid training only.

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

#### Corrective Action

One staff member has in enrolled and is certified in a FAR course.

#### Preventive Action

Registered provider will check to make sure paper work is in date at all times,

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of FAR certificate.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 25 - First aid has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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 was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated that the last fire drill was conducted on the 24/10/24.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced on the 23/08/2024 and the smoke detection system on 18/07/2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were on display in the care rooms and hallway of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

An insurance certificate stating that the service had in date insurance for 22 children attending on a part time basis was available.