

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL157
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Apples Pre School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	21 Riverwood Chase, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 DF78
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Judith Rogers
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin , Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C.Harte
<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

Little Apples Preschool is a privately owned sessional service operated from the registered provider's home. There is one large care room that leads directly to the outdoor area located at the back of the premises. The service operates Monday to Friday offering sessional care between 8:45am to 12:15pm and 13:00pm to 16:00pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE).

### Staffing

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was present with two staff members. All three adults were observed working directly with the children.

### 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, safety and 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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The agency was not notified of a change in circumstance in relation to an increase in the maximum number of children who can attend the service at any one time. The service is currently registered for a maximum of 18 children however on the day of inspection 19 children were present. A review of attendance records from November 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 to December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 demonstrated that up to 21 children have attended the service at any one time.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

This has been rectified, the total number of children attending the morning session daily is 18 children and the total number of children attending the afternoon session is 14 children daily reverting back to the original planning permission granted.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Weekly attendance for both sessions.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 has been addressed.

### 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

(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

- (1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was present during the inspection.
- (2) The files of three adults were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
  - (a) Three validated references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Three validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Completed Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of all three adults.

- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed.
- (4) The 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, 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.*
- (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) On the day of the inspection the registered provider ensured there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection.

Age group	No. of children	Staff available	Staff required
3-5 years	19	3	2

## 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;*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(h) A record of attendance for the children was maintained including the time of arrival and departure from the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(j) The form being used to record medication administration did not include the signature of the staff member administering the medication or the second staff member who witnessed the administration.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(j) The service have amended the documentation to include both signatures of two staff members that administered medication in line with our policy for the administration of medicines.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

None.

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective action taken. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 (j) has been addressed.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and suitable for the children attending the service. There was equipment displayed on low level shelving visible to children allowing them to independently choose and access their activity.
- Toys and equipment were grouped into defined areas including a mark marking area with a selection of resources for children to develop fine motor skills and be creative, a construction area to facilitate physical and cognitive play, materials for sensory play including playdough and fake snow encouraging exploration and a home corner with dress up and associated props supporting imaginative play experiences with real items such as soup and pasta cartons. Other equipment available to the children included small world play and animals, jigsaws, toys for threading and books aiding the development of literacy. Additional resources were observed stored at the service.
- The equipment and materials were observed to be well maintained.
- The outdoor area was fully enclosed and secure with a variety of equipment including a balance beam, large blocks and a playhouse.

### 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 entrance to the service was secure and staff attended the door to allow access. This prevented unauthorised persons accessing the service or a child exiting the service unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were observed stored out of reach of children.
- Windows were secure to prevent injury from falls.
- Large door glass panels had visibility strips to prevent injury.

### Infection Control:

- Tables were observed to be disinfected before lunchtime.
- Children were supported and encouraged to wash their hands before lunchtime and after returning indoors from the outdoor area.
- Pedal bins were in use in the sanitary areas.
- Soap was readily available in sanitary areas.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exit was observed to be unobstructed.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The water temperature in the children's bathroom was recorded at 47.1°C. This posed a risk of injury to children.

#### Infection Control:

2. Not all lunches were stored in the fridge. Seven lunch boxes were observed to be stored beside the refrigerator and contained perishable items such as yogurts and sandwiches. This is not in line with the food and nutrition guidelines for pre-school services.
3. Tissue was not hygienically dispensed and was observed on the back of the toilet cistern. This posed a risk if cross contamination.

#### Administration of Medication:

4. There was no care plan available for a child with emergency medication. This posed a risk of incorrect medication administration.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The water temperatures are monitored daily and there are water thermostats on the boiler and both the toilet taps used in the preschool.

The water thermostats have been adjusted to 42°C.

#### Infection Control:

2. No corrective action received but the reason why this occurred was outlined in a response received to the inspectorate.
3. Toilet paper was stored on the cistern and has since been placed with a toilet roll dispenser in the toilet.

### Administration of Medication:

- A care plan has been drawn up for all children when being administered medication. A care plan was in place for the administration on our hard copy file.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Photographic evidence of water thermostats.

#### Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of toilet roll holder.

#### Administration of Medication:

Photographic evidence of care plan.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances for points 1, 3 and 4 identified under Regulation 23 has been addressed.

The non-compliance for point 2 remains outstanding. The registered provider must ensure that perishable items contained within children's Lunch boxes be refrigerated.

## 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 registered provider ensured that suitably equipped first aid boxes were stored safely out of reach of the children but easily accessible if needed.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no First Aid Response (FAR) trained person available. A review of the available FAR certificate demonstrated that it expired 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. It is acknowledged that two staff were available with paediatric first aid.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

A FAR training course was booked for 09/11/2023 and rescheduled for 27/01/2023.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of FAR training booking.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been addressed.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that a record of fire drills was maintained in the service. The record showed that fire drills were conducted monthly. The last fire drill took place 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was available for review in the service. The record showed that the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were last serviced 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023.