

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL189
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Schoolers
<b>Address of Service:</b>	16 Bramblefield Drive, Clonee, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
<b>Eircode:</b>	D15 ED65
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Slobodanka Colic
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	22/05/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17
<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>	T. Nelson	
<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 Schoolers is a full day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 21 children aged 2 to 5 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 9.00am to 12.00pm and is registered to provide school age childcare in the afternoon.

Little Schoolers operates from a purpose-built building to the side of a residential property and comprises of two care rooms. There are sanitary facilities located off each of the care rooms, and a fully enclosed outdoor area is located to rear of the premises.

### Staffing

There are currently four staff employed by the service including the registered provider and three childcare staff who work directly with the children. There is also a relief staff member available to provide cover when needed. The registered provider and two childcare staff were present on the day of the inspection.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following:

- Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) – Records in relation to Preschool Service

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.*

*(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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*

*(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

*(c) these Regulations.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured the following:

(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.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was displayed in the care room and was available in staff recruitment information.

(2) Five files were reviewed, including the registered provider, three staff and the relief staff member. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a) and (b) Ten validated written references were available from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer.

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

(d) Documentary evidence showed that four adults who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as adults had international police vetting from that state available for inspection.

(3) Documentary evidence available showed that all of the checks outlined in (2) had been carried out prior to any of the adults having contact with the children in the service.

(4) Documentation was available that the five staff 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.

(7) (a)(c) There was evidence available that staff were appropriately supervised and provided with information and attended relevant training. For example:

- There was documentary evidence of quarterly staff meetings which included information on relevant regulatory updates.
- There was documentary evidence available that staff attended relevant ongoing training and professional development courses.

### 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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*

*(a) a sessional pre-school service, and*

*(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,*

*the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

## Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their basic care needs. There were three staff available to the 17 children.

(4) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service at 9.37am, as follows:

- Room 1: 2 adults to 12 children aged between 4 to 5 years old.
- Room 2: 1 adult to 5 children aged between 3 to 4 years old.

## 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.

### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) Details of the name, position, qualifications, and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee were maintained within the staff files.
  - (b) The service Tusla certificate was displayed within the service and detailed the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide.
  - (c) (d) (e) Details of the adult: child ratios, the type of care or programme provided and the facilities available within the service were detailed in the policy document.
  - (f) The opening hours and fees of the service were displayed on the noticeboard in the care room of the service.
  - (g) The registered provider maintained all of the policies required in accordance with Regulation 10.
  - (h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of the children on a daily basis were maintained.
  - (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
  - (j) A method of recording the administration of medication was available, although there were no recent records completed and staff reported children had not required medication recently.
  - (k) A method of recording any accidents or incidents was available, although there were no recent records completed and staff reported there had been no recent accident of incidents.

## 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 registered provider had the following measures in place to safeguard children:

##### General Safety:

- Entry and exit to and from the service was monitored and managed by staff, with the latch on the entrance gate up high out of reach of children. This restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Tall shelving units in the care rooms were observed to be secured to the wall.
- Blind cords and electrical flexes from a radio and television were observed to be secured or out of reach of children.
- The outdoor play area was observed to be fully enclosed, with external gates secured.
- Hazardous items such as cleaning agents were observed to be stored up high out of reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- The premises were in a clean and hygienic condition and documented up to date cleaning records were available and displayed in the premises.
- Appropriate foot pedal operated and lidded waste disposal units were observed throughout the premises.
- Liquid soap and hygienically dispensed paper towels were available at all wash hand basins used by the children and the staff members.
- Children were observed to handwash, and the table was wiped down before snack time.
- Children's lunch which were sent in from home were refrigerated.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Although children did not sleep on a regular basis, there was a record available where the colour, breathing and position of a sleeping child was checked every 10 minutes.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire safety procedures were clearly displayed throughout the care rooms.
- There was evidence of recent and regular fire drills.

### 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.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises.