

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015FL299

**Name of Service:** The Children's Village

**Address of Service:** Chieftan's Way, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** K32 Y202

**Name of Registered Provider:** Lisa Wilson

**Service type:** Full Day

**Dates of Inspection:** 13/05/2025

**Date 2 of Inspection:** 14/05/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	80	PM	34
<b>Day 2</b>	AM	76	PM	41

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin  
K67 Y5C6

**Inspection undertaken by:** AM Coyle & Y Kelly

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

### 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

The Children’s Village is a privately owned early years service conducted from a detached purpose-built building situated in Balbriggan in north Co Dublin. The Children’s Village provides full day, part time and sessional preschool care and education to children from 1 to 6 years. The service also provides care to school aged children. There are 9 care rooms in the service namely the Little Folks room, the Sunflower room, the Bright Sparks room 1, the Bright Sparks room 2, the Handprints room, the Busy Bee’s room, the Sticky Fingers room, the Happy Feet room and the Treasure Island room. The service operates from 07:30am to 6:30 pm Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am to 12 midday for 38 weeks of the year for eligible children.

### Staffing

The service employs 25 staff members including the registered provider, service manager who coordinates the day-to-day operational management of the service and a chef who also has a supervisory role in the service. The registered provider was the person in charge on the days of inspection and while not allocated to a care room was available to provide support across all care rooms as required. Six staff members are employed in the service to reduce the adult to child ratio and if necessary to work with children with additional needs, posts which are funded by the Minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme. Two staff members are employed to work with the school aged children only.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23, 24,25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29.

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 inspectors wish 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

(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 supervisor was deputising as the designated person in charge of the service until the registered arrival arrived onsite. The registered provider was then the designated person in charge, with a person designated person to deputise when required.

(b) The service supervisor was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 9.05am on the day of inspection. The registered provider arrived soon after and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

A total of 25 staff files were reviewed including the file for the registered provider and 22 staff members who work directly with the children attending the Early Years service including staff members employed through

funding from the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and for the staff member who engages in catering duties as well as a supervisor role along with the 2 staff members who work with the school aged children only.

(2)(a) Forty-one written and appropriately validated references were available from a past employer.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 25 adults whose files were reviewed. However, 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. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International police vetting was available as required for 9 adults who had lived outside the State as adults for more than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider, the service manager and all 19 staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(d) International police vetting was not available for 3 adults who had lived outside the State as adults for more than 6 consecutive months.

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

#### Corrective Action

(d) Two of the three international police vetting obtained. The third staff member has since returned to their home country so no longer required.

#### Preventive Action

(d) All staff will have to provide these police vetting before starting with the service, if not originally from Ireland. Management will cross-check each staff file's work and maintain a high standard of documentation.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Police vetting for 2 staff members.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 9 – Management and recruitment has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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) On the days of inspection there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the first morning of inspection and remained so throughout the inspection.

On the 13/05/2025 the following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity:

- In the Little Folks room there were 4 children aged 1 year 6 months to 1 year 9 months being cared for by 1 staff member.
- In the Little Sunflowers room there were 9 children aged 2 years 9 months to 3 years 3 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Bright Sparks 1 room there were 9 children aged 3 years 5 months to 5 years being cared for by 2 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Bright Sparks 2 room there were 8 children aged 3 years 5 months to 4 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff members, two of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Handprints room there were 15 children aged 3 years 4 months to 4 years 11 months being cared for by 3 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Busy Bees room there were 7 children aged 3 years 4 months to 4 years 5 months, all attending on a full day care basis, being cared for by 1 member.
- In the Sticky Fingers room, there were 10 children aged 3 years 6 months to 4 years 7 months being cared for by 2 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.

- In the Happy Hearts room there were 9 children aged 4 years 4 months to 5 years 4 months being cared for by 2 staff members one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Treasure Island room there were 9 children aged 3 years 6 months to 5 years 1 month being cared for by 2 staff members one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.

On the 14/05/2025 the following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity:

- In the Little Folks room there were 3 children aged 1 year 6 months to 1 year 9 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Little Sunflowers room there were 8 children aged 2 years 9 months to 3 years 3 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Bright Sparks 1 room there were 8 children aged 3 years 5 months to 5 years being cared for by 2 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Bright Sparks 2 room there were 8 children aged 3 years 5 months to 4 years 6 months being cared for by 2 staff members, two of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Handprints room there were 14 children aged 3 years 4 months to 4 years 11 months being cared for by 3 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Busy Bees room there were 7 children aged 3 years 4 months to 4 years 5 months, all attending on a full day care basis, being cared for by 1 member.
- In the Sticky Fingers room, there were 9 children aged 3 years 6 months to 4 years 7 months being cared for by 2 staff members, one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Happy Hearts room there were 9 children aged 4 years 4 months to 5 years 4 months being cared for by 2 staff members one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.
- In the Treasure Island room there were 10 children aged 3 years 6 months to 5 years 1 month being cared for by 2 staff members one of whom was employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced in staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained in the service.

### 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 daily life of the service:

#### Basic needs:

- During the inspection the staff members were observed to be caring, kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences. For example, one child in the Little folks room was new to the service having recently started to attend for a full day. The staff member was observed providing extra comforting and attention to this child using warm and gentle touch and tones in their efforts to engage and support the child and following the child's lead as they explored the environment, to very good effect.
- Mealtime and snack times in the service were observed to be a sociable and relaxed experience with staff members encouraging conversations and extending interactions thereby promoting a sociable and relaxed atmosphere. The service provides breakfast, dinner and tea to children attending the service on a full day care basis and the children bring their own morning and afternoon snack with them from home.
- Children's nappies were changed regularly throughout the day and staff members were observed interacting positively with the children during this time and using it as an opportunity for warm one to one interaction. Older children were encouraged to use the toilet independently with discreet supervision and support provided when required. Children's hands and faces were cleaned after eating and the staff members ensured that that the children had sunscreen applied prior to going outside.
- The staff members in the Little Folks room stated that the children in the care room were facilitated to sleep in cots as needed, in keeping with their home routine when appropriate. This was observed during the course of the inspection with children placed to sleep when they exhibited signs of tiredness. Children in the Little Sunflowers Room were facilitated to sleep in cots at the service's designated sleep time after dinner along with children attending the Busy bees room and the Bright Sparks 1 room who were facilitated to sleep on sleep mats in the care room after dinner.

- The children’s achievements were positively reinforced with recognition, praise and encouragement by the staff members. Throughout the service the staff members were observed to approach any minor disagreements that occurred between the children in a positive and calm way and supported the children to resolve any conflict that arose.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The inspectors observed supportive interactions taking place between the staff members and children during the inspection as evidenced in the staff members in each care room speaking warmly and positively to and about the children and engaging with the children in a responsive and caring manner. Children in the Little Folks room and in the Sunflower room were observed reaching out and hugging staff members unprompted with the staff members observed responding physically and verbally in an affectionate manner.
- Throughout the care rooms the practitioners were observed to work well together as a team and supported each other in the care of the children, providing verbal handovers when breaks were taken thereby ensuring a smooth transition of care for the children.
- A written record of the children’s meals, activities, general wellbeing and if relevant nappy changes and sleep were maintained and shared with parents when the children were being collected from the service. Parent and staff members exchanged information verbally at drop-off and collection.

### Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms in the service were bright and welcoming, and the play materials and equipment were accessible on low-level shelving to facilitate children’s independent choice and play. Throughout the care rooms the children demonstrated familiarity with their environments to access the toys and play resources they chose to play with.
- The care rooms were laid out in clearly defined interest areas to prompt and support children to engage in self-directed and imaginative play. Interest areas included home and kitchen corners, shop areas, construction areas, arts and crafts areas and library corners, with each area suitably resourced with supportive play materials, equipment and books, stored on low-level open fronted shelving which were accessible to the children in attendance. Children were observed engaging in sensory play to include play with modelling dough and water play.
- Throughout the care rooms the children’s sense of identity and belonging was reflected with the children’s artwork on display in addition to the children’s family photographs.

- Three separate outdoor areas were available to the children attending the service. The small garden located to the side of the service was surfaced with tarmac. Two spring mounted rockers along with a spring mounted see saw and a playhouse were available for the children to use. Staff members brought additional resources outside including construction blocks for the children to play with and the area provided the children with the opportunity for running and movement. The large garden which was located to the rear of the service had a tarmac surface with a large section underneath the climbing frame covered with a safety surface. A large climbing frame, 2 slides, a resourced mud kitchen alongside a planting area, 2 playhouses and a small see saw were available for the children to use. The outdoor area directly accessible from the Little Folks and Sunflower room had 2 surface mounted rockers, a see saw, slide and crawling tunnel were provided for the children to enjoy physical play. All of the children present in the service enjoyed time in the outdoor area on both days of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Physical and material environment:

1. There was no supportive equipment available at the play kitchens in the outdoor play areas at both sides of the service to enable the children to extend their play.
2. In Bright Spark 2 room a shelving unit was observed to be turned away from the children and stored against the wall after 12pm which prevented the children from accessing the play resources contained within, which included Montessori materials. This practice restricts children's freely chosen play through reducing their access to play materials and resources.
3. There were no family wall photographs displayed in Bright Sparks 2 room or Treasure Island room. This prevented children from using family wall photographs as a means of maintaining links with and bridging the gap between the service and home.

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

#### Physical and material environment:

##### Corrective Action

1. They have placed an order for outdoor equipment. They have hired maintenance man to build a sensory wall alongside their outdoor kitchen area. This will be completed over the summer months. The gardener has ordered soil to re-plan the garden / soil areas for children to be able to engage in messy outdoor play.
2. They have addressed this matter with all staff. They have highlighted the importance of freedom of choice. they have been resourcing courses/ workshops for staff to complete over the super to refresh training

skills, importance of play. staff completing the new training also provided by the local Childcare Committee.

3. They have arranged for parents to provide family pictures on their parent's day. This will take place in the first week of July when families meet teacher and class. They fill out the necessary document and all about me form and provide pics for staff to have ready on the first week of term.

### **Preventive Action**

1. Management will regularly walk the outdoor area to assess what maintenance is required and place an order at the end of each term, they also have discussed with staff the children's interests and needs and reached out to them for feedback on what they feel would be beneficial. They will do a survey each term going forward and have set a budget to spend.
2. The management team will do unscheduled classroom checks to observe the layout of rooms, equipment being used, spot checks of cleanliness and documentation.
3. All staff will have this set up on first week of term. Staff have been reminded of the importance and benefits. For families that can not print staff has asked them to email, and they will provide the printing service. They understand the importance of having it at child level and all staff have been instructed to have it displayed in a clear space for all children to see throughout the day. Management will also check this at the start of each year and watch to make sure it maintained.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence was provided.

### **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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 door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The service's designated emergency exits were unobstructed.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children on raised shelving and in locked cupboards.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children during the inspection.
- The outdoor play areas were gated and secured with walls and fencing to prevent a child gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper hand towels were provided to support effective hand hygiene throughout the sanitary accommodation in the service.
- There was a lined, lidded, and pedal-operated bin in the sanitary accommodation where nappy changing took place.
- The premises, play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Up to date documented cleaning schedules were on display in the service.
- Soothers were stored in personalised containers when not in use.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- The children aged less than 2 years had access to a standard cot to sleep in.
- The inspectors observed that 10-minute sleep check observations noting each child's colour, position and breathing pattern were being performed and documented on all sleeping children.

##### Fire Safety:

- The records demonstrated that fire drills were practiced on a regular basis to familiarise both adults and children of the correct procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- A Garda vetting disclosure that was available for 1 staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Infection Control:

- The children attending the Little folks' room did not have their hands washed after they had their nappies changed, this is an infection control risk.
- The children attending the Bright Sparks 1 room had their afternoon snack placed directly onto the table, children's food and snacks should be placed in a bowl or on a plate.
- The children's snacks in Bright Sparks 2 room which contained perishable items were not refrigerated and were observed to be kept in children's lunch boxes on top of a shelving unit in the room. This increased the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in food poisoning.
- At times during the inspection children attending the Little folks room and the Little Sunflowers Room were observed to be brought to the nappy changing area in pairs and small groups, while the staff member was changing a nappy, the other child was waiting in the space. On one occasion there were three children in the nappy changing room, with two additional children using potties. This practice does not support effective infection control practice.

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

#### Corrective Action

#### General Safety:

- The staff members Garda vetting application was submitted the week of the inspection. We are still awaiting the review and also are checking the portal regularly

#### Infection Control:

- The babies have been practicing washing hands before and after meals. They use a step in class and sink area to wash hands. They also complete this activity after nappies and outdoor play time. They have placed hand washing posters in the rooms also.
- Plates have been provided for all classrooms. children always eat snack on a plate. Staff have been reminded of the importance of this step in your daily routine.

4. The Room has a box, clearly labelled. Each day the children place their snack in the box and one staff member from the room place it in the dining room fridge.
5. Nappy changing policy reviewed. Staff rostered on - person doing breaks will now relieve baby room staff to allow them to have one baby at a time. This will be best practice going forward. Toddlers and baby rooms do not mix nappy changing times. Scheduled times have been rostered unless it's an emergency.

### Preventive Action

#### **General Safety:**

1. A chart has been displayed in the office with review dates. Management will check all staff files and make sure all necessary documentation is in place.

#### **Infection Control:**

2. Review hand washing policy / infection control. Provided to all staff to make sure they refreshed the steps. Management will do spot checks on daily routines.
3. Each day staff will collect plates from the kitchen. Staff have been trained or have been booked in for basic food safety training. Again, management will carefully observe and do routine spot check.
4. Staff have been reminded of the importance of food safety. All staff will be trained in food safety.
5. Scheduled nappy changing times more. Staff rostered to allow nappy changing times.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Documented and photographic evidence was provided.

### **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed. The non-compliance as stated in points 2-5 have been adequately addressed. As the service is still awaiting receipt of the updated Garda vetting disclosure the regulatory requirement for non-compliance as stated in point 1 under regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has not been addressed and remains outstanding. The registered provider should submit this to the inspectorate upon receipt.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

### Compliance Information

(3)(a) & (b) A system was in place to ensure that no person other than the children and their parents or guardians, employees, approved students or authorised visitors could enter the service. Visitor's attendance at the service was recorded in a visitors' book. The inspectors were requested to record their arrival to and departure from the service on both days of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The children's attendance records were not accurately maintained as evidenced by the following:

- A child attending the Little folks room was present in the service from 1:05 pm but was not signed into the register at 3.00pm.
- A child attending the Bright Sparks 2 room who was collected at 12.00pm was not marked absent from the register until 1.00pm. It is acknowledged that this was rectified when the inspector brought this to the attention of staff.

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

#### Corrective Action

- (1) Staff have been addressed about the importance and had to recap on the sign-in and out policy to follow each day. Management have been checking role, books daily to correspond with room number.

#### Preventive Action

(1) Management has a checklist which they will use to run routine spot checks around each room. Checking numbers, ratios, sign/ in and out etc. will be on that list. They have also signed up to introduce using an app and digitally record children's attendance etc.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 24 - checking in and out and record of attendance has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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) Four staff members held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training. Based on a review of the staff members' training records and the service's staff roster, it was evident that the registered provider ensured that a person with FAR training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

## 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 fire drills which had been completed in the service. The most recent fire drill recorded as having taken place on 29/04/2025.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced in August 2024 and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 06/04/25.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (b) safe and secure,
  - (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,
  - (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

#### Compliance Information

- (b) The door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.

#### Non-Compliance Information

The ambient temperatures in the Little Folks room were not maintained of 18-22°C for children aged 1 year and older, as detailed in table 1.1 below. These temperatures posed a risk to the safety and comfort

of the children in attendance. It is acknowledged that, when asked by the inspectors, the staff member accurately described the safe air temperature range and had already implemented and continued to implement control measures seeking to achieve this through opening windows and doors to enhance ventilation in the room, additionally the staff member brought the children to the garden while the room was cooling. However, although partially effective as evidenced in the temperatures recorded during the afternoon, these measures did not prevent the room temperatures from remaining high on the 13/05/2025.

Date	Location	Air temperature	Time recorded
13/05/2025	Little Folks room	25.8°C	09:55am
		26.4°C	12:25pm
		23.0°C	2:30pm
		23.9°C	4:45pm
14/05/2025	Little Folks room	22.7°C	09:55am
		22.5°C	1:50pm

(d) The service was not maintained in a proper state of repair as demonstrated by the following:

- The paint on the wall on the wall adjacent to the rest area in the Little Folks room was peeling with plaster exposed underneath.
- The paint on the wall beside the door to outdoor area in Bright Sparks 2 room was peeling with plaster exposed underneath.

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

#### Corrective Preventive

(d) A digital room thermometer is placed in the room each morning at the opening and set up. The temperature is checked by staff and documented. This happens in the baby room / toddler room and cot room daily. When the room reaches elevated temperatures there is a protocol in place which includes introduction of a fan, open windows, remove children where possible.

#### Preventive Action

(d) Staff know the protocol to follow. Room thermometers provided in rooms to indicate rising temperatures. Management will also spot check this to maintain the correct room temperature.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of thermometer.

## Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 29 - Premises has been reviewed and accepted.