

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL334
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tyrrelstown Little Stars @Gaelscoil
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Powerstown Educate Together School, Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Powerstown Road, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D15AF54
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ewa Hetnal
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	14/10/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency, Second Floor, Unit 4&5, Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne & E Saini
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

This service is located in one classroom in the Gaelscoil an Chuilinn, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15. A part time or sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 to 6 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday 7.00 am to 18.30pm. The classroom has sanitary accommodation attached to the room. The children have access to a secure area in the school yard for outdoor play. The service runs a school age breakfast club and afterschool service. On the day of inspection, children were attending a sessional service only, either from 9.15am to 12.15pm or 9.25am to 12.25pm.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs three staff within the service to include the designated person in charge, the deputy designated person in charge and one childcare staff member. On the day of the inspection, the deputy designated person in charge and the one staff member were present and the area manager who arrived at 10.05am facilitated the inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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 as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(3)(4)

Regulation 19 Health Welfare and Development of Child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid (1)(2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1)(a)(b)(4)

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection was the classroom of the 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy person in charge, the staff member, the children and the area manager who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

(2) The files of five adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, to include the registered provider, the area manager and three childcare staff.

(2)(a)(b) Ten written and validated references were available for five adults from a past employer or a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for five adults. The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the three adults who worked directly with children attending the service, as well as the registered provider and the area manager 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 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.*

*(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) (3) (4) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service on a sessional basis to meet their basic care needs. There were three adults available to the 14 children present for the morning session of the service.

The inspectors observed that the service maintained a ratio of 1 adult to a maximum of 11 children in the 2 years 8 months to 6 years old age range during the sessional care service provided .

### 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:

- Mealtime was observed to be a leisurely sociable experience, where children ate their lunches brought from home on plates.
- The childrens water bottles were available at lunch time and throughout the session as they were placed on a table in the classroom.
- All children were observed to access outdoor play for an extended period of time on the day of the inspection.

##### Supporting relationships:

- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. Appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication such as low tones, eye level contact, touch and other strategies were observed.
- Children new to the service were facilitated to transition at a pace suited to their needs and were comforted by staff with kind and calm support.

##### Physical and material environment:

- The classroom in the service was designed with the age and stage of development of the children having been taken into consideration.
- Activities available in the classroom were play kitchen with supporting equipment, dolls house with equipment, dolls, dolls clothes and hairdressing equipment, small world people, animals, trucks and cars, plastic bricks, magnetics, clicks, stickle bricks. For sensory play coloured rice with supporting equipment was on a table for the children and art mark making materials of pencils and crayons paper, chalk and blackboards were present. The rest area consisted of a couch with cushions and books.

##### Programme of Activities

- The children were learning about the Halloween and the inspectors observed planned adult led activity of creating bonfire art with paint and glue and the story of the day read by the staff member was about a witch. The sensory tray of orange and black coloured rice also related to Halloween.

- Songs, dance and music with actions were observed during circle time. This can facilitate language development.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### (1)(a) Programme of Activities:

1. During the inspection, the inspectors observed the children part take in adult led play activities with play equipment placed on tables for the children to part take in. Areas of interest and play equipment were not organised to promote independent choices of play for the children and for child led play.
2. During the outdoor play time, play and games were adult led through organising of running games, the outdoor play environment did not have play equipment to promote child led play, individual or group play choices and limited the free play and learning opportunities for children.

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

#### (1)(a) Corrective and Preventive Action

##### Programme of Activities:

1. Layout of the classroom was reorganised for children to be more interesting and always inviting to free play. Educators were informed to make sure layout of the room and areas are designated to promote all different aspects to child led play (invitation to play, role play, provocation to play etc.). Educators make sure space is mindfully planned, that encourages discovery, engagement and exploration for children at all times.
2. Educators have been reminded to ensure they, take the 'outdoor activity box' every time they go out with children to play outside. Apart of physical activities like running and jumping, children have a choice to use resources from 'outdoor activity box' (balls, skipping ropes, hoopla-hoops, chinks etc.). Outdoor activity box has been set up for educators to bring outside at garden time.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic Evidence
2. Photographic Evidence

### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 19, the non-compliances outlined above have been adequately addressed.

### 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:

- Access to the service was via the reception of the school and was monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and preventing children from leaving the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area was secure, for outdoor play.
- The temperature of the classroom was recorded as 21.7°C at 10.38am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22°C.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children lunches which were brought from home, were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available for disposal of paper towels and contaminated items.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The record of attendance for the service did not accurately reflect number of the children in the classroom, Contemporaneous accurate record of attendance must be maintained to support the safe evacuation of children in an emergency. For example.
  - Two children who left the service during the morning session were not marked as absent until 12.15 pm and 12.25pm respectively: Fourteen children were marked as present up to 12.15 pm when 13 children were present from 10.25am and 12 children were present from 11.20am.
  - When the record of attendance was updated, the times of the two children who left early, were not noted accurately as child 1 who left at 10.25 was noted as leaving at 10.40am and child 2 who left at 11.20am was noted as leaving at 11.15am.
  - One child did not attend the service was not marked out as absent.

- Staff left the record of attendance book indoors while in the outdoor play area. This reduced the effective evacuation in the event of an emergency as there was no access to the record of attendance while outdoors.
- Trailing flexes were observed to be accessible to children in the classroom, leading to a risk of injury.

### Infection Control:

- Handwashing in the service was not in line with best practice or the service infection control policy and was not sufficient to prevent the spread of infection for example after outdoor play, a staff member was observed to clean the hands of ten children with hand sanitiser. Warm water and soap are required for adequate handwashing to prevent the spread of infection.
- One toilet seat adapter was observed on the floor of one of the children's toilet cubicles which presents an infection control risk. Toilet seat adapters should be stored off the floor when not in use.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- Educators have been reminded of the importance of children been correctly signed in and out and the correct time. Person in charge will oversee, that all educators are follow the correct procedure regarding children been signed in and out correctly.
- Educators have been reminded of the importance of always bring the attendance book outside. Person in charge will now be responsible for bringing the attendance book outside.
- All flexes have been removed and not accessible to children. Person in charge will do a daily risk assessment to prevent reoccurring again.

##### Infection Control:

- All hand gels were put away. All educators will ensure, that warm water and soap are the best practise to wash hands by children and educators.
- Hook was placed on the wall for the toilet seat to be placed on. Educators will ensure the seat is hung on the hook and not placed on the floor.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Training Record

##### Infection Control:

Photographic evidence

### Summary Comment

The non compliances outlined above, under Regulation 23, have been adequately addressed.

### 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) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the classroom.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in First Aid Response was available to the children attending the service at all times since September 2024. It is acknowledged that three staff members were trained in paediatric first aid and on the day of inspection, from 10.05am, on arrival to the service to facilitate the inspection, the Area Manager had First Aid Responder training and was available. A sufficient number of adults must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of appointments, leave and breaks within the service.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) First Aid Responder Training has been completed by the person in charge of the service.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) First Aid Response Certificate

### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 25, the non-compliance outlined above has been adequately 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 firefighting 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) The last recorded fire drill of the 38-week sessional service was carried out in the service was 25 September 2024.
  - (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment were last serviced in September 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 2 October 2024.
  - (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the school.