

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015GY059

**Name of Service:** Wild Roots Preschool

**Address of Service:** Croi an Bhaile, Carrabane, Athenry, Co. Galway

**Eircode:** H65 Y766

**Name of Registered Provider:** Nicola Gavaghan

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 12/11/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	7
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:**  
Early Years Inspectorate,  
Quality and Regulation Directorate,  
Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A  
(1st Floor- Green Corridor),  
Merlin Park, Galway.

**Inspection undertaken by:** F Kelly, S Meehan.

**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

This service operates a full day care early year' service for children aged from 2 years to 6 years. The service operates from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. This service is located in a purpose-built building in Carrabane village in Co. Galway. This service has 2 playrooms, and a kitchen. It also has a well-equipped outdoor area which is accessible from the playrooms.

### Staffing

There was a total of 6 adults and 1 student on work placement working in the service on the day. The registered provider was not present on the day of 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/ 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 and 19 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 20, 29, 24 and 23 These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 person in charge, 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 manager was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection, the service manager was on the premises.

It was confirmed that there were 9 members of staff employed in the service and 1 student on work experience.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 17 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(b) There were 3 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than recent employer for adult working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting for staff members every three years.

(d) Police Vetting disclosure was not required as the adults working in the service that had not lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) Eight adults who were working directly with the children, had evidence of an award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. There was 1 student on work placement.

On the day of inspection there were 28 pre-school children attending the morning session.

At 3pm on the day of inspection, there were 7 pre-school children in attendance.

(2) Senior Playroom, there were 2 adults working with 12 children.

Junior playroom , there were 3 adults and 1 student working with 16 children.

### 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

##### Basic Needs

- Parents provided the snack foods for their child and the service provides the main meal for children attending on a full day care basis. On the day, children's morning snacks consisted of a selection of fresh

fruits, yogurts, crackers and sandwiches. The main meal of the day was chicken curry and rice, the children were encouraged to self-serve.

- Self toileting was both supported and encouraged by adults depending on the child's age and stage of development.
- Children are provided with labelled individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual coat hooks in outside in the corridor adjacent to the playroom and the in a storage room in the junior playroom.
- Hand washing by adults and children was observed during the inspection, the children were observed washing their hands when they returned from outdoor play and before their lunch.
- The children were observed playing in the outdoor space on a few occasion during the inspection. The all had wellington boots and warm coats and hats and they were encouraged to put on and off their coats and boots on their own and the staff offered help when needed.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Basic Needs

Staff in the Junior playroom did not provide for each child's need for sleep and rest.

The staff did not pick up on the cues that a child needed sleep. A child aged 2 years of age was observed falling asleep on a staff member's shoulder, who then walked around the room with the child and brought the child to the nappy changing area. The child was not offered a sleep mat or bed to rest or sleep.

This is in variance with the service's sleep policy, which clearly stated that children's sleep needs should be met. The issue in relation to sleep needs being facilitated was highlighted in the last report dated 25/01/2023.

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

The register provider stated the following in their reply:

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

All children are now provided with a place to rest and sleep during the day, individual sleep beds and bed linen is available.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate for review.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken and the evidence submitted by the registered provider address the non-compliance identified.

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

### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There were no sleep facilities available for children to rest or sleep. There was no evidence that sleep beds/mats or sheets and blankets were available in the service. Sleep mats were observed to be brought to the service at the end of the inspection.

This is at invariance with the service sleep policy that stated that each child would have access to an individual sleep mat or bed.

This issue was highlighted in the previous report dated the 21/01/2023.

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

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

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

Sleep beds are provided for children to rest and staff have reviewed all the policy and are implementing same.

#### Summary Comment

The actions taken and the evidence submitted by the registered provider address the non-compliance identified.

These actions will be reviewed at the next inspection.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. One staff member did not remove the apron and gloves worn while changing a nappy a nappy before she returned the child to the playroom. She was observed in the corridor and the playroom. This posed a risk of cross infection.

##### Fire Safety:

2. The fire door leading from the corridor to the Junior ECCE room was unable to be closed fully, which presented a fire safety risk.

This was highlighted in a previous report 25/01/2023 and the register provider stated in the corrective and preventive action process, that the door remains closed. This was not the case as the previous reason which was an incorrectly installed finger pinch guard prevented the door from closing was still present.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

1. Staff have been informed that they have to complete training and have until the 27/01/2025 to complete this training.

##### Fire Safety:

2. The fire door now closes fully as per fire safety requirements.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Fire Safety

Photographic evidence was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

1. While it is acknowledged that the registered provider has stated staff have and will complete training evidence of this training has not been submitted to support these actions.
2. The action taken has addressed this non-compliance.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) An accurate record of each child's attendance was not kept on a daily basis.

On the day of inspection, the attendance sheet for the Junior playroom was not filled in for the day of inspection and the previous day. When this was brought to the attention of the staff. One staff member was then observed completing the arrival and departure times for 18 children from memory as no other record was available.

This was in variance with the services drop and collection of children policy where it stated that children attendance must be recorded on a daily basis.

This posed a risk to both staff and children in the event of an emergency.

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

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Records of the children's arrival and departure times are maintained daily.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the attendance sheet was submitted.

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under regulation 24 have been adequately addressed and will be reviewed at the next inspection.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Non-Compliance Information

- (d) There were areas of mould present on the ceiling of the kitchen, which could pose as risk to the children attending.
- (e) On the day of inspection, there were 3 wash hand basins in the children's sanitary area when 4 were required. This was highlighted in a previous report, dated the 25/01/2023. The registered provider had stated in the corrective and preventive action that a new wash hand basin was installed; however, this had not taken place.

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

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

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

- (d) Mould on the ceiling is the result of a leak in the roof and will be repaired by March 2025.
- (e) The bathroom will be remodelled, and we are awaiting a contractor to carry out the work

### Summary Comment

- (d) The action as stated by the registered provider will be assessed when works are completed by March 2025.
- (e) This non-compliance remains outstanding as a time frame for when this work will be completed has not been given by the registered provider.