

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY096
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Friendly Fellows Club- Connacht Hotel
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 K5DD
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Natallia Chuyeva
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<b>Service type:</b>	Drop-In
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	0	PM	57
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan and E. Friel.
<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 privately-owned drop-in service operates out of the Connacht Hotel on the Dublin Road, Galway city. This drop-in service caters for children aged from 3 years to 6 years of age. The service operates from 16:00 to 22:30 as a drop-in service which opens at weekends and during school holidays. The service can cater for a maximum of 24 children at any given time throughout the operation of the service. The service has 2 playrooms on the first floor of the hotel with sanitary facilities.

### Staffing

There are 7 adults working in the service which does not include the register provider. Three of the adults work with preschool children and there are 4 adults employed to work in the school aged service. The adults working directly with the pre-school children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of a level 5 to a level 8.

### 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 and safety. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) During the inspection the designated person in charge was present and a named person to deputise was available as required.
- (b) The manager and the deputy manager were available on the premises during the operation of the service. Eight staff files were available for the registered provider and adults employed by the service. These files were reviewed and the following was noted.
- (2)(a) Nine of the 16 written references with evidence of verification were available from past employers.
- (b) Seven of the 16 written references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the 8 adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew.
- (d) International police vetting was available in respect of 2 adults who lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as adults.
- (4) All the adults working directly with the children in the preschool service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 to 8 or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*
- (6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. There were 3 adults working directly with preschool children

during the evening sessions: from 16.00 to 17.45 there were 15 children present, 17.45 to 19.30 there were 16 children present, 19.30 to 21.00 there were 11 children present and from 21.00 to 22.30 there were 15 children present. Children were observed not attending the drop in for more than 2 hours.

- (6) The registered provider ensured that the adult/child ratios were correct during the operational hours of the drop-in service.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres

- (1) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service or a preschool service in a drop-in centre shall ensure there are no more than 24 children attending the service at any given time.
- (3) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that the maximum number for a drop-in service was compliant. There was a maximum of 16 preschool children on the premises at any given time on the day of inspection.
- (3) The documented records showed that no pre-school child attended the drop-in service for more than 2 hours consecutively.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
  - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
  - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
  - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;

#### Compliance Information

15 (1)(a)(d)(e)(f) A sample of a 11 children's records were reviewed and all the above required information was

documented on each child's records who attended the drop-in 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

19(1)(a)

#### BASIC NEEDS:

- The children could avail of a healthy snack if required from the hotel kitchen if they were hungry. Crockery and plates were available to children if required.
- The children had access to a water on a low-level table which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Hand washing was observed at appropriate times throughout the evening.
- Each child's privacy and dignity was respected while they were either toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in a designated rest and relaxation area in the playrooms.
- Children were observed at tabletop activities, playing in the clearly defined interest areas, the children were observed at art & crafts, imaginary play, messy, musical chairs, dance off competition and sensory play.

## 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 registered provider ensured that there was a trained in first aid responder available to the children attending the pre-school service, there were 2 rostered during the inspection. There were 3 adults with an up to date first aid responder certificate working in the service.
- (2)(a) The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and was available to the children attending the pre-school service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

### Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for 24 pre-school children on a drop-in basis and was valid until the 25 August 2026.