

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015GY100 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Caisleán Óir Glinsk Community Childcare |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Glinsk Community Childcare, Glinsk, Via Castlerea, Glinsk, Co. Galway |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | F45 PX24 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Linda Delaney |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 23/05/2024 |
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| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 53 | PM | 39 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate,<br>Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A.<br>1st Floor- Green Corridor),Merlin Park, Galway. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | F. Kelly and S. Meehan.   |
| <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).

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

This community early learning and care service is located in Glinsk, village in North, Co Galway. This service offers a full day care and part time care and sessional provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs Monday to Friday. It comprises of four playrooms and outdoor play area to the side and rear of the building. The service was also registered to cater for school aged children

### Staffing

There are a total of 20 staff employed in the service, which include the service manager and two ancillary staff members and an administrator. There were 13 staff members in attendance on the day of 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 9,11 however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19 ,23 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 and facilitated the inspection.

It was confirmed that there were 20 members of staff working in the service, service manager, child care workers, kitchen staff and 2 students on placement.

All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) There were 29 written and appropriately validated references available from the adult's most recent employer.

(b) There was 7 written and appropriately validated reference available from a source other than recent employer for the adults working in the service.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.

(d) Police vetting disclosures were available for 6 staff that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.

(4) There were 16 adults working directly with children who had obtained at least an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) There were 2 adults working in the service that did not have 2 written and appropriately validated references on files from a recent employer or a reputable source.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff have validated references on file and a reference validation form is part of the staff induction file.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the outstanding reference was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as outlined above.

## 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)

During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the day, there were 53 pre-school children, attending the service in the morning and 39 pre-school children attending the service in the afternoon.

At 10.30 am on the day of inspection, the following care rooms were in operation.

(2)

Baby room (12 months and over) there were 2 adults caring for 6 children.

Toddler room( over 2 years) there were 2 adults caring for 9 children.

Little stars (2 years 8 months to 3.5 years), there were 3 adult and 1 student caring for 19 children.

Big Stars (3 .5 years to 5years), there were 3 adults caring for 19 children.

(8)

The staff roster of the service indicated that there were two adults on the premises at all times during the operational hours of 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

#### BASIC NEEDS

- The service provided all main meals for the children attending the pre-school service and the parents provided the snacks.
- Each child was given enough time to eat their snacks and meals without being rushed.
- The snacks and meals provided on the day of inspection, were appropriate. Adequate suitable and varied food and drinks were observed /available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service. The main meals were prepared by the catering company and reheated on site in the service kitchen.
- Children have unrestricted access to the toilets, and children were heard on a few occasions, informing staff members that they were going to use the sanitary areas. Staff offered assistance when required.
- The service offers a private confidential childcare application 'app' which allows private communication between the preschool and parents / guardians for purposes of daily communication regarding attendance, daily activities, sleep diary, nappy changing diary, observations, and milestones. Medication administration and accident and injury records were also collated by using this childcare application. Information about the service and general information was displayed on the notice boards in the foyer of the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Basic Needs

1. The dignity of the child was not protected during toileting, as the doors of this sanitary area was left open during the sessions and the children using the sanitary areas could be viewed from the classrooms. On the day of inspection, the toilet cubicle doors were latched open and the children could not close the doors without adult assistance.
2. The staff in the “Little stars” playroom were observed to not respond to children’s cue of tiredness. Four children over the age of 2 years were observed to have fallen asleep on the matting on the floor during relaxation time after lunch time. The children did not have access to suitable sleep facilities.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The service manager stated the following:

1. The lock barrel was taken out of the locks so the children cannot lock themselves in and can close the door. Frosted glass is on the glass panel on the main door to ensure children cannot be seen and door will be always closed.
2. Age-appropriate sleep mats have been purchased and will be used during relaxation time, to ensure if children do fall asleep during relaxation time they have suitable sleep facilities.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the purchasing invoice was submitted to the early year’s inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider addressed the non-compliances. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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:

The following practices were observed during nappy changing that poses a risk of cross infection:

1. On the day of inspection, a staff member was observed to be wearing a disposal apron, when she returned a child to the Toddler room. She had worn this apron during a previous nappy change.
2. The staff member had washed their hands and the children's hands before and after nappy changing however hands were washed under cold running water without the use of soap. This practice is invariance with the service's nappy changing and hand washing policy.

##### Safe Sleep:

3. There were 2 sleep mattresses in the baby sleep room requires replacing as they were stained and did not have a waterproof and cleanable covering.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

The service manager stated the following in their reply:

1. Staff have been reminded about the nappy changing policy and hand washing procedures.
2. Immersion to be left on so there is adequate hot water, for hand washing.
3. 2 new cot mattresses have been bought to replace the 2 stained mattresses.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the nappy changing policy and hand washing policy and photographs of the newly purchased mattresses and an invoice for new sheets were submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider addressed the non-compliances. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

### Non-Compliance Information

1. The adults in playrooms caring for younger children namely the Baby room and the Toddler rooms did not have a comfortable place to sit, hold, feed the children, to read, interact and to comfort the children in their care.
2. There was a lack of materials and equipment and toys in the following playrooms Baby room, Toddler and Little star rooms to provide a rich and varied environment for the children, for e.g.
  - The Kitchen units in all the playrooms had limited toy accessories to play with.
  - Dolls houses in the playrooms had limited furniture or were void of any furniture or dolls for the children to play with.
  - There was an inadequate number of jigsaws and puzzles in the playrooms on the ground floor for the number of children attending the service.
  - Dress up clothes was sparse and shared between the four playrooms on the ground floor.
  - The shop units in the playrooms were void of play accessories.

It is acknowledged that some toys were available to the children on book shelves in the Toddler room and the little stars room, but these book shelves were faced towards the wall and were available to the children during the session. The staff decided when the children could access these toys, and there was a limited number of toys available to the children during the sessions,

3. The children did not have access to enough varied materials and equipment e.g. small world toys were limited in all of the playroom downstairs.

4. There was no soft seating in the Playrooms e.g. the Baby, Toddler room and the big stars playroom upstairs. On the day of inspection, 9 children were observed sitting directly on 4 pillows on the floor on in the Toddler room during story time.
5. The young children attending the baby room did not have access to low level seating throughout the day. They had to sit on the floor while engaging in activities. All of the 6 children present aged between 12 months and 2 years were fed in high chairs when a number of the children displayed the capabilities of having good posture and strength to be able to sit independently in low level chairs. Children were placed in the highchairs and no other seating or tables were available to the children.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider stated the following in their reply:

New toys, equipment, furniture both for children and staff have been purchased for all of the playrooms. The layout and availability of toys and furniture will be regularly checked by the manager on duty.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographs of the new furniture and toys purchased and invoice of the equipment, toys and other pieces of furniture was submitted to the early year's inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider addressed the non-compliances. The regulatory requirement has been met and will be reviewed at the next inspection.