

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY191
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kelly Childcare (Scoil Chaitríona Junior)
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The GAA Clubhouse, Rowan Ave, Renmore, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 TXW6
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Paul Kelly
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	23/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Nic Dhonnacha
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### 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

The preschool service operates from a building on the grounds of Renmore, Gaelic Athletic Association in the suburbs of Galway city. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme and sessional care programme is offered from 9.00hrs to 12.00hrs, Monday to Friday. Additionally, the service operates a morning club between 8.00hrs to 8.50hrs for school aged children and a school-aged programme from 13.30hrs to 17.30hrs. The preschool caters for children aged between 2 years to 6 years. It consists of 1 main playroom and kitchen/ staff room. A quiet rest area is available for the children to rest or relax or opt out of an activity if they choose to. The preschool children have access to a secure outdoor play area to the back of the building for play activities, exploration, and fresh air. The preschool provides a child led play-based curriculum focusing on the child's emerging interests

### Staffing

The registered provider designated person in charge and an additional two staff members were on the premises, on the day of inspection. There are four staff in total working and caring for the children in the service that includes the registered provider. The four staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

### 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 inspections 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 inspector wishes 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, at all times when the pre-school children were present.
- (c) Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.
- Since the last inspection on the 30/09/2021, two new staff had commenced working in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (2)(a)&(b) Eight written validated references were available on file from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the four staff members working in the service.
- (d) Police vetting was available on file for two staff members who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 months, while over the age of 18 years
- (4) Four staff members held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the four staff.

### 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 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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The attendance records for the previous 3 weeks were reviewed by the early years' inspector, indicating that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the preschool children.
- (2) The adult / child ratio was correct and maintained on the day of inspection. There were four staff working directly with and caring for twenty-one children. All the children were aged between three years to five years.
- (8)(c) The registered provider does not operate the service single-handedly. There is a designated person in charge and two additional staff members working in the preschool service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

*A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons to view.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The children sat together and ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians. The food observed was healthy and nutritious. Snacks consisted of a selection of sandwiches, brown bread, cheese, bread sticks, crackers, yogurts, chicken, ham and pieces of fruit.
- The children could easily access their sip bottles and drinks throughout the session.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be independent.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.

- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.

### Supporting Relationships

The service supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -

- Having a key person for each child.
- Listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language.
- Encouraging children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promotes sustained shared thinking.
- By using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact, providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks.
- By working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.
- Individual child profile scrapbook, which captured the child's activities and experiences with documentary / photographic evidence and key adult observations was available to view. A classroom profile book was also available showing various activities and themes that the children engaged in.
- The service used a private messaging app for interactive communication with parents and guardians, text messages, phone calls, emails, or doorstep visits.
- The theme of the week was the Jungle. The children predominately spent their time in the outdoor play area.
- The children were observed riding on bicycles, pedalling go carts.
- The staff present on the day of the inspection showed kindness - were caring, supportive and reassuring whilst caring for the children.

### 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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

- The indoor play area was maintained, clean, organised, and free of clutter,
- The area accommodated children individually, in small groups and in a large group,
- The space was well supplied with materials that were organised in a way to support children’s play and learning,
- The playroom was well equipped for the age and stage of development of the children attending the service.
- Items included transport toys with tractors, boats, and diggers. There were farm animals, yards, Mr Potato heads, figurines, and little people. There were rubber mats, soft seating, cushions, and a library with a selection of books. In the Pretend area there was a shop with real world items, shopping trollies and cash registers, and a kitchen with kitchen utensils. There were musical instruments, sensory shapes, costumes, white boards and play dough. There was a creative area with paints, baskets, art, and craft materials. There were low desks for writing skills. There were sand and water basins with utensils.
- Displayed on the walls were posters, visual aids children’s artwork, themes, and schedules. Items included – our family tree, whose birthday is it today, our day, daily routine and a space display.

#### Outdoor Play Area

- Children accessed the outdoor space to the rear of the premises, predominately on the day of inspection.
- The service balanced the need for safety with the need to provide physical, challenging experiences.
- The equipment and materials available provided children with play, movement and exploration opportunities that were exclusive to the outdoors.
- Fencing and walls prevented access to streets and other dangers.
- The outdoor area was surrounded by walls, metal fencing and covered with tarmacadam and concrete paths.

- Items included go carts, tricycles, a basketball hoop, plants, picnic benches, a fairy house, kitchen area, connect four, water pipes and hoses, a tuft table with blocks, hula hoops and water/ sand basin an activity centre a with slide. There were wall mounted butterflies, owls and reptiles in the planting area.
- There was a shed for the safe storage of play materials and equipment, staff advised they are rotated on a seasonal basis.

### 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 main entrance door into the pre-school was secure to prevent access by an unauthorized person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play area was secured so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area.
- In the playroom, cleaning agents were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- Daily records of attendance were kept for all of children attending the playroom.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- A record of visitors to the service was maintained. There was a storage area inside the entrance of the playroom with individually labelled hooks for the children's coats and bags; thereby preventing a trip hazard.
- The heating system in the outdoor play area was securely enclosed and inaccessible to the preschool children.

##### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with warm water, liquid soap, and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature less than 43°C. There were 2 hand wash basins in the sanitary area for the preschool children to use and a wash hand basin inside the lobby of the back door.

- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after playing outdoors and on entry/ exiting the pre-school service.
- There was a fridge in the kitchen for the storage of perishable items from the children's lunch boxes/ bags.
- The playroom was adequately ventilated with windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperature at the required level.
- Waste was disposed of in foot pedalled lidded bins in the playroom and in the sanitary area and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- The registered provider advised the inspector of a safe system where all food and drinks brought from the child's home were labelled and identifiable to the child.

### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

### Safe Sleep:

A rest / quiet area was provided in the playroom in the form of matted cushions and floor matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

## 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 service provided evidence that three staff were trained in first aid for children and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position in the playroom.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service and items were in date.

### 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

- (a) A record in writing is kept and maintained in the service for monthly fire drills.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment with the last annual service date the 01/07/2022.  
A record was maintained of the number, type, and maintenance of the smoke and fire detection system with the last annual service date the 01/07/2022.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the service on the notice board and in a hard folder.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance with an expiry date of 27/03/2024 was available for a full day care service for a maximum of 22 children