

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY196
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Teddy House
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	153 Rosan Glas, Ragoon, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 NN84
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Carlie Healy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	30/09/2024
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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 and Jackie Mayock
<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 private preschool has recently changed ownership. It continues to provide a sessional care preschool care programme from 9.00am to 12.30pm and the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service caters for pre-school children, aged between 2 to 6 years of age. The preschool is based in a residential area in Ragoon West of Galway city. The new registered provider is the manager of the service. The children have access to an outdoor space which is located to the rear of the building and parking is provided to the front of the premises. The service offers a play-based curriculum incorporating the Montessori Teaching Method.

### Staffing

There were five adults employed to work in the service including the registered provider. Five adults employed to work with pre-school children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education between Levels 5, and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The registered provider was on the premises when the early years inspectors arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person or deputy, were available on the premises when the pre-school children were present.

The files for five adults who were employed to work with pre-school children were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a)(b) There were written validated references available from previous employers and reputable sources available for all adults employed in the service.
- (c) Garda vetting dated within the last three years was available for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting was available for three adults for whom it was required.
- (4) There was evidence that five adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework for 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.*
- (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.*

(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 provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) There were an adequate number of adults including the registered provider working directly with children attending the service. There were five adults working directly with twenty-one children in the morning.
- (3) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that the adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 21 children present. All children were aged between 2 years 10 months to 5 years of age.
- (8)(c) The registered provider ensured they do not operate a single-handed service.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) (h) Details of children’s attendance was accurately recorded.
- (i) A staff roster was available for review.
  - (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child, should it be required, and that administration of medication should be witnessed.
  - (k) There was evidence available that that an accident and incident recording book was available onsite with a duplicate copy for the parents to sign and a copy for the child s records .

### 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

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their food without being rushed. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, pleasant social interaction among the children and staff was observed.
- There was a hard copy of the healthy eating policy available to review if requested.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to toileting and toilet training.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Children were allowed to take their time during toileting.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence, and to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.

##### Supporting Relationships

- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by the childcare staff, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement.
- The childcare staff were observed to be caring, kind and supportive in their interactions with the children.
- Children were praised, encouraged and listened to and it was observed that the adults interacted regularly with the children.
- The service operated in partnership with parents and guardians. The staff communicated with parents and guardians via phone calls, doorstep visits or through emails if necessary. Information about the service and general information was displayed on the walls and notice boards inside the entrance door to each room.

- Each child had an individual child’s learning journal which included activities, observations photographs, drawings, shapes, letters, words, and events that the child engaged in. The theme of the week was “All about Me”.
- The children were observed to be engaged in nursery rhymes, singing songs, engaged in circle time, storytelling, at imaginative play, at small world play, playing with dinosaurs, puzzles and table top activities.
- The children were observed outside playing, running, chasing, pretend play in the playhouse, using the slides, and riding on the tricycles.

### 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, and
- (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.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

- The space in the two playrooms was designed and arranged to: maintain a space that is clean, organised, and free of clutter. The rooms accommodate children individually, in small groups and in a large group. They were divided into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support children’s play and learning.
- The environment was comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children and staff in the pre-school.
- Staff had seating in each room where they could read, interact and comfort children.
- Staff encouraged the children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, equipment in the indoor and outdoor environment, based on the child’s needs, choices, interests and age and stage of development.
- The children had access to enough varied materials and equipment, which were rotated to suit the changing programme, to suit current and new interests.

- Materials and equipment were arranged so they were visible and readily accessible to promote independent access by children. There was different interest areas provided, where equipment and materials of similar use were arranged or grouped together. There were play materials with a variety of colours, textures, shapes, and sizes to experiment with and explore that were freely available in the service. For examples: open-ended objects such as construction and building materials such as stacking shapes, links, connectors, threading material, and blocks. There were problem solving items such as insets, puzzles, counters, timers, links, matching cards, games, and jigsaws. There were Montessori items such as measuring and pouring items, such as scoops, jugs, and containers. There was role play areas such as kitchens, houses with utensils and furniture. There were hairdressing hair heads, accessories and dress up clothing on rails. There were creative play areas with a selection of art and craft materials including easels, paints, glue, pencils, crayons, and paper. There were dolls, shapes, books, dinosaurs, zoo and farm animals, and doctors' sets. There were age and stage appropriate furniture, themed shaped furniture, rocking and musical toys. There were nature areas and interest areas with the children's favourite story books and play materials. There were library book areas.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters, educational materials, and children's artwork. Hanging from the playroom's ceilings were decorations, jungle leaves and planets.

### Outdoor area

- The outdoor environment provided children with activities and opportunities for fresh air, discovery, play experiences and learning.
- The service balanced the need for safety with the need to provide physical, challenging experiences for children. The areas were secured by walls and a gate. The ground surface was covered with an impact absorbing surface and brick paving.
- The staff advised that the outdoor areas were an extension of the indoor playrooms and linked with the learning that goes on inside. On the day of inspection, all the children had opportunities to be outside, as often as possible.

(1)(b)

There were cosy areas with soft seating and an oval shaped swivel chair, in each of the playrooms where a child could rest or take a break if these wanted 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) Evidence of one adult who had First Aid Responder (FAR) first aid training was available and was available to children in the service.
- (2) A Suitable equipped first aid box was available.
- (a) The first aid box was stored safely in a conspicuous position in the service.
  - (b) The first aid box was available to children at all times.

### 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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated 25/09/2024.
- (b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file. Records indicated that the last annual maintenance for the firefighting equipment was dated 9/03/2024. Records indicated that the last maintenance documentation for the fire detection system were dated 24/08/2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each playroom.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27/03/2025, which was for a sessional care service for 44 pre-school children included the following: -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.