

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY213
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Enable Ireland Disability Services
-------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Enable Ireland Children's Services, Galway Services, Seamus Quirke Road, Newcastle, Co. Galway
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 E8P4
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Clare Lenehan
-------------------------------------	---------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/11/2023
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	4	PM	No.
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

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

### Description of service

This service was established in 1997. It caters for children from the three to six years of age who have a diagnosed neurological physical disability such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy or spinal bifida or who have a diagnosed chronic orthopedic condition such as brittle bone juvenile arthritis or have a significant physical disability without a confirmed diagnosis. Children with epilepsy, speech and language delay or a development delay without an intellectual disability can avail of this preschool service. The preschool is based on the grounds of University Hospital, Galway in the enable Ireland building. There is one large playroom and an outside playground at the rear of the building, with a combination of grass, tarmacadam, and soft surfaces for children’s physical play activities

### Staffing

The registered provider was not on the premise on the day of the inspection. A total of 3 adults were working in the pre-school children.

### 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 announced/unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. 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 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 deputy person in charge was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) During the period of inspection, the deputy person in charge was on the premises during the inspection.
- (2)(a) Of the 14 references required, there were 10 written and appropriately validated references available from their most recent employer for the adults working in the service.
- (b) Of the 14 references required, there were 4 written and appropriately validated references available from a source other than the previous last employer for the adults working in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service.
- (d) Police Vetting disclosure was available for 2 staff members working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over 6 months.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualification Framework.

## 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) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.

(3)

At 10 .00 am on the day of inspection, the following playroom was in operation.

Playroom 1, there were 6 adults working with 4 preschools children.

(8)(c) Not applicable, as this service is not operated single handedly.

## 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 children brought their own snacks and lunch in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. The timing of the snacks was appropriate, and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The staff sat with the children during the morning snack and assisted the children with the children as required. The staff were observed speaking and interacting in a positive manner with the children.
- Nappies were changed as necessary and in a timely manner, it was a positive experience for the children. Staff were observed talking to the children and explaining in advance that their nappy was going to be changed.
- The service had safe and comfortable spaces for the children to walk, or children not yet walking to explore their environment.
- The children were aware of routines and daily transitions, so they know what to expect and can prepare themselves for transitions (moving on to the next activity).
- The service supports children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with adults by assigning a key person to each child. This was observed on the day of inspection, each staff member worked on a one-to-one basis with each child.
- An individual care plan is in place for each child attended the service.
- The service provides the parents with daily information via a communication book and a staff member accompanies the children when they travel home in the service bus,
- The service provides opportunities for parents and guardians to be involved with service activities, and this was observed on the day when a parent accompanied their child when they were using the service's hydro pool. This is a weekly activity and the parents were invited to attend.