

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY235
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Name of Service:	Spraioi Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	May Cahill House, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 DR60
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Name of Registered Provider:	Theresa Murphy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/03/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM	39
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Co. Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan and A. Mc Carthy.
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable
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Description of service

The service operates as a privately owned crèche which opened in September 2014 and offers a full day-care, part-time care and sessional care programme. The service is located on the main street in the town of Gort, south county Galway. The service is registered to cater for pre-school children two to six years of age and the opening hours are 07.00 to 18.30. The service comprises of three playrooms which includes a Giraffe room, Elephants room and Lions room on the ground floor. The premises also has a staff office and a staff kitchen for breaks.

Staffing

The service currently employs nine adults, which includes the manager and the allocated area manager and a chef working in the kitchen. The registered provider does not work in the service and is not detailed on the staff roster.

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.

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 manager or deputy manager were available to deputise in their absence. The area manager assisted with administration duties.
- (b) The roster indicated that there was a designated person in charge during the inspection and indicated that a person was in charge while the service was carried out.
- (2) A total of 10 files were reviewed which included the registered providers and the adults working in the service:
- (a) Thirteen of the required 20 written and validated references were from past employers.
- (b) Seven of the required 20 written and validated references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 10 adults working in the service.
The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for seven adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4) Seven adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4) One adult working with children did not have evidence that they held a level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The adult in question has been assigned to kitchen duties until a letter of recognition of her qualification is received. The service will ensure in future that any adult working directly with children has a level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Supporting documentation submitted

None.

Summary Comment

The statement made by the registered provider has been accepted by the Early Years Inspector and has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies, procedures and statements in Schedule 5 were reviewed and met the necessary requirements:

- Complaints.
- Administration of Medication.
- Behaviour Management.
- Infection Control.
- Accident and Incident.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children on the day of inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to. There were 8 adults working directly with 39 children on the day of inspection in the morning and afternoon.

(8)(a) Documentary evidence on the roster indicated that at least two adults were on the premises when the pre-school was operating.

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

(16)

- (h) All children were signed in with their full name, date of birth and time of arrival and departure on the electronic system.
- (i) The staff roster was maintained accurately and indicated each staff members break, role and hours of work.
- (j) Five records which were reviewed. Details of medication administered to the pre-school children attending the service were recorded with signed parental consent and details of medication administered were issued to parents on the electronic application system.
- (k) Accident, injury or incident records involving pre-school children attending the service were reviewed. The records reviewed, detailed a signed parental signature after the accident/incident occurred.

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

(1) (a) BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The hot meal of the day was Mexican chicken with vegetables. Children were offered extra portions of food as requested.
- The children took their time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. They were supported by staff if required.
- Crockery and plates were given to children during snack times on age-appropriate low-level tables.
- Perishable items belonging to children were labelled and stored in the service fridge.
- The children had access to water in each of the playrooms and when they were playing in the outdoor area.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax on couches, in the designated rest and relaxation areas, in the playrooms.
- Children were put down to sleep on beds after lunch. Adults were observed carrying out physical sleep checks every 10 minutes in line with best practice.
- The children were observed playing in the outdoor area, in circle time, at tabletop activities and free play. The children were also observed making Mother's Day cards.

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 a person trained in first aid for children was always available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two staff had current training in first aid responder training for children.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position in the kitchen.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill was conducted on the 12 March 2025.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that firefighting equipment was checked annually. Records confirmed that the firefighting equipment was serviced on the 16 July 2024. The fire detection and smoke alarms systems were maintained annually; the last date of maintenance was on the 29 July 2024.
- (2)(c) The fire records required in paragraph (1) were available for review in the service.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire was available on file and displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for a full day care service and was valid until the 27 March 2025.