

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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|--|---|----|-------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>   | TU2015GY235   |    |       |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>  | Spraoui Early Learning Centre   |    |       |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>   | May Cahill House, Crowe Street, Gort, Co. Galway  |    |       |
| <b>Eircode:</b>  | H91 DR60  |    |       |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>  | Theresa Murphy  |    |       |
| <b>Service type:</b>   | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional  |    |       |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>   | 18/06/2024  |    |       |
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b>  | AM  | 42 | PM 36 |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>  | Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A, 1st Floor- Green Corridor, Merlin Park, Galway. |    |       |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>   | S. Meehan.  |    |       |
| <b>Title:</b>  | Early Years Inspector.  |    |       |
| <b>Authority to Inspect</b>  |   |    |       |
| 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

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 is also offered from 9 am to 12 pm. 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 aged 2 to 6 years of age and the opening hours are 8 am to 6 pm. The service comprises of 3 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. Mats are available for older pre-school children aged over 2 years, for rest or sleep as the service only caters for children over 2 years of age.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not working in the service. There is a person in charge and a named person available to deputise when and if necessary. There are 8 staff working in the premises. Seven staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Additionally, there is a designated person in the kitchen. 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, 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 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.

(c) Staff rosters and documentary evidence indicated that there was a clear management structure in the service, that identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(2) All 9 staff files were reviewed including the registered provider.

(a)&(b) Eighteen written validated references on file were from a past employer or from a source other than the

past employer.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available in respect of 9 adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for seven staff who lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 months while over the age of 18 years.
- (4) Seven held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of ongoing training and development were on file for these staff members.

## 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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the person in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.
- On the morning of the inspection, there were 42 pre-school children aged between 2 to 5 years attending the full day care service being cared for by 7 adults.
- In the afternoon there were 36 preschool children aged 2 to 5 years being cared for by 6 adults.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### 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

(19)(1)(a)

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious.
- The service had a designated chef for all the Spraoi services and a designated kitchen was available where meals were re heated on site by an auxillary adult.
- The snacks provided by parent and guardians consisted of a selection of sandwiches, cheese, ham, rice cakes, yogurts, wraps, crackers, bread sticks, and pieces of fruit.
- Perishable items belonging to children were stored in the service fridge.
- There was water on a drink's trolley in the playrooms for children to self-serve and access throughout the day.
- Children were observed enjoying snack time. The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Children were toilet trained and either toileted independently or with some assistance as required. The dignity of children using the toilet was preserved.
- Nappy chaning took place as required throughout the day and the correct procedure was observed in line with best practice.
- Children were put down on stackable beds or mats for sleep and physical checks were carried out every 10 minutes by adults.
- All the children had the opportunity to play outside, on the day of the inspection. These children were appropriately dressed wearing hats and coats when playing outside.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### **BASIC NEEDS:**

The Lions Room:

Activities in this room appeared to be predominately adult lead.

- At snack time children were not involved in preparing the tables or in assisting in the distribution of snacks. When some children were finished snacks there were no activities that these children could play with and had to wait until all children were finished their snack. These children were observed to jump on the soft seating, stand on chairs and pushed and shoved each other.
- Areas/interests of play were not readily available to allow children to transition from one activity to another in line with the programme of activity the service had developed for the day. Staff did not appear to communicate with regard to these activities.

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

The registered provider stated in their response that:

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

1. New staff have started and updated training has been provided. Children are divided into groups for activities and transitions are now planned.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

1. Documented evidence was submitted by the registered provider of short-term planning and a curriculum that has been implemented.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted has been reviewed and has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.

## 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:**

1. Two pedal bins were broken in the sanitary areas and may pose as a risk of cross infection.
2. A self-sealing, leak proof, pedal bin was not available in one of the nappy changing areas.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. The broken pedal bins are replaced and will be monitored by staff in future that they are fit for use.
2. A self-sealing, leak-proof bin has been purchased.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. & 2. Photographic evidence was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

1. & 2. The evidence submitted was reviewed and has met the requirements for this part of the Regulations.

## 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 2 adults were trained in first aid responder for children and were available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (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 fire fighting 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) A record in writing of fire drills indicated that the last fire drill was conducted on the 05/06/2024.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that firefighting equipment was checked annually and the last service was the 17/07/2024. The records for the smoke and fire detection alarm system were maintained and was last serviced on the 17/07/2024.
- (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 was displayed in the lobby and each playroom of the service.