

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY261
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Wonder Kids Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	44 Shantalla Road, Shantalla, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 YR72
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Margaret Walsh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/07/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	19
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.
<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

This privately owned service offers the full day care from 8 am to 6 pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9 am to 12 pm, Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The preschool service is in a converted detached building, located in Shantalla in the suburbs of Galway city. There were 5 playrooms in total over 3 floors and sanitary facilities. Meals are prepared and cooked in the service kitchen. There is an outdoor play area to the rear of the service for children to play, explore and get fresh air which has been upgraded.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and on the premises daily and there is a named designated deputy. There are a total of 6 adults currently working with the children, a school aged worker and a chef in the service kitchen. Six adults have a recognised childcare qualification at a minimum of a level 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care 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.

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*
- (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) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise.

(b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and deputy was on the premises while the pre-school children were present.

(c) A management structure was available in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

All 8 adult recruitment files were reviewed:

(2)(a) There were 12 of the required 16 written and validated references from previous employers.

(b) There were 3 validated references were from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the 3 new adults employed in the service and for the 1 adult requiring a renewal of Garda vetting every 3 years. 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 5 adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months.

(4) There was evidence that 6 of the 7 adults who required a childcare qualification had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to 8 on the National Framework for qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

2(a)(b) There was a reference required for 1 adult that was not available.

(d) International police vetting for 1 adult who had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than 6 months required 3 separate police vetting's but only 1 was available for inspection and 2 remain outstanding.

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

The registered provider stated in their response:

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

2(a), (b), (d) All vetting procedures will be carried out prior to any adult working in the service.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

2(a)(b) The outstanding reference was submitted and validated.

(d) The 2 police vetting's required for 1 adult was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

2(a), (b), (c) The evidence submitted to the Early Years inspectorate has addressed the non-compliances under this part of the Regulations.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. There were 4 adults working directly and caring for 19 pre-school children in the morning and afternoon.

### 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

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view and children's dietary requirements were taken into consideration.
- The food at snack time was adequate, suitable, nutritious and varied. The snacks were supplied by the service, children had brown bread, cheese, crackers and fruit with water or milk to drink. The main hot meal of the day was pasta carbonara with bacon and vegetables.
- Adults sat with and communicated with the children during snack time.
- Children were given sufficient time by adults to eat in an unhurried manner at snack time.
- The children were supported and encouraged to be independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development, including self-feeding, toileting and tidying away after their work and for play activities.
- All children were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance by an adult.
- The adults were observed to supervise children's hand washing before snack time, after toileting, wiping their nose and outdoor play.
- The children were observed to enjoy freedom of movement in the play rooms and in the outdoor play area throughout the day.
- Staff engaged in positive way with the children in all their interactions, encouraging and supporting them when caring out different tasks throughout the sessions.
- Adults were observed facilitating children to find solutions, supporting and helping them to resolve minor issues.
- The outdoor play area was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. On the day of inspection, children were observed playing in the outdoor area at various intervals.

### 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 responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Four adults had current training in first aid response for children.
- (2)(a) The first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and were 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.*
- (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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service the last fire drill was conducted on the 13 June 2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment in the premises and was serviced in May 2024.
- Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of and fire/smoke alarms in the premises with the annual check dated the 03 June 2025.
- (4) A notice was displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire on the premises.

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