

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY281
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Treasure Island Creche: 3
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Treasure Island, Renville West, Oranmore, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 NF8Y
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aideen Cruise
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/11/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	26
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, 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.

### 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 full day care service was first registered in 2009. The service caters for children aged between 0-6 years. Monday to Friday from 8 am to 6 pm. A sessional service Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme is also offered between the hours of 9 am and 12 pm.

The premises is located on the grounds of the marine institute in a purpose built creche in Rynville near the village of Oranmore in county Galway. There are four playrooms in total on the ground floor and a designated sleep room with 7 cots. There is also sanitary facilities and a designated kitchen for the storage and preparation of meals during the day. A large outdoor play area is located at the rear and side of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not on the premises daily and a manager is appointed for the daily operation of the service. There are a total of 9 adults working directly with children which includes the manager. The 9 adults have an award in early childhood education at least to a minimum of a level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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, 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 was the named designated person in charge during the inspection. There was a named person who could deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection. A total of eleven adult files were reviewed which included the area manager and registered provider:
- (2)(a) There were eighteen written, validated references from past employers available in respect of the adults working in the service.
- (b) There were 4 validated references on file in respect of the eleven adults were from a source other than the previous past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the eleven adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please see the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Five staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and had the required police vetting for that jurisdiction.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that all eleven adults working directly with children had a major award of a minimum of FETAC level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

## 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.*

## Compliance Information

- (1) The early years attendance records/rosters indicated that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. There were 9 adults caring for 27 children in the morning and 9 adults caring for 26 children in the 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.*

## Compliance Information

(19)(1)(a)

### BASIC NEEDS

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service, nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times, but there was flexibility.
- At 10 children had a selection of fruit which included blueberries, apple, kiwi, cheese which was prepared in the service kitchen. The hot meal of the day was vegetarian curry and rice. Children had the opportunity for seconds if desired. Water was available in each playroom for children to self-serve.
- Appropriate crockery and plates were offered to children at meal times and children sat on age-appropriate chairs and tables.
- There was designated fridge for the safe storage of perishable food in the service kitchen.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults. Individual care plans were available if required, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement, inclusion and encouragement.
- Self-toileting programmes were developed for children and this was handled in a positive and sensitive manner by adults.
- Children who wore a nappy and had their nappies changed in a timely manner in the nappy changing area.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- Children were observed washing their hands before snack times, after toileting and outdoor activities. Hand washing was both supported and encouraged by adults in line with best practice.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

- There was liquid soap at the wash hand basins to facilitate hygienic hand washing. There were paper towels in the wall mounted dispensers in the sanitary areas easily accessible for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand drying.
- Hand washing by the children was consistently supported and encouraged prior to eating and after nappy changing / toileting and after outdoor and messy play.
- The service had a site-specific infectious control and hand hygiene policy, including best practices and time frame periods for dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease and sickness exclusion.
- There was a designated nappy changing area and an air tight self-sealing, leak proof pedal bin for the disposal of wet and soiled nappies.
- Nappy changing procedures were carried out in line with best practice.
- Thermostatically controlled hot water was available for use by the pre-school children to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- There was a daily and a weekly cleaning schedule in place and documented.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

Garda vetting was available for 1 adult employed by the service. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in her response that:

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

Garda vetting was applied for, and a copy of Garda vetting was submitted to the Early Years Inspector. A reminder has now been set for each staff members Garda vetting to be checked within the 3-year period required.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

A copy of the new Garda vetting was submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspector reviewed the evidence submitted and it has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of 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 person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Four adults had current training in first aid responder and three adults in paediatric first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid boxes in the playrooms, 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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was the 29/10/2024 and documented monthly fire drills were available.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated the 03/04/2024.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service on the 09/04/2024.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had in date adequate insurance for 50 preschool children on a full day care basis which is valid to 27/03/2025.