

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE075
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kindercrescent
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	481 The Crescent, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	W23 AV88
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sharon Regan, Yvonne Regan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/08/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	27
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Duignan, F. Maher.
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	n/a
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### Description of service

Kindercrest provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care to pre-school children aged 1 - 6 years of age. The early years' service operates from 7:30am – 18:00 hours Monday to Friday. It is based in a single-story premises located in a residential area on the outskirts of Maynooth. There are eleven preschool rooms, two sleep rooms, three nappy changing areas, a kitchen, an office, and a large secure outdoor play area are located on the premises. Set down and parking facilities are available outside the premises.

### Staffing

There were eleven adults present on the day of inspection, one of whom was the person in charge. Seven adults were working directly with the preschool children. One adult was employed to freshly prepare food daily for the children in the service. The registered providers were not present for the inspection. The area manager was present and remained for the duration of the inspection including feedback meeting.

One staff member provided additional support to the care rooms as required. The area manager and person in charge provided additional support to care rooms also.

All the adults working directly with the preschool children all held a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the national framework of qualifications.

### 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and Recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) - Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 25(1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 16(1)(h) (i)(j) (k) – Record in relation to Pre-School Service.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.
- Regulation 24(1), (2), (3)(a)(b), (4) – Checking in and out and Record of attendance.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under:

- Regulation 29(c) - Premises

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms: Little Stars, Butterfly, Sunflower and Little Owls.

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, area manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

The records of twenty-six staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b) Two written and verified references from a past employer or in the absence of a past employer, from a reputable source, were available in respect of each staff member whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for twenty-six employed staff members.

Garda Vetting disclosures were available for twenty-six adults, twenty-three of which were dated within the last three years. 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 refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was in place for twelve adults employed who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Twenty-two employed adults working directly with the children held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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.*
- 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) There were twenty-seven children attending the service being supervised directly by seven adults.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day.
- (8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises throughout the inspection, this was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

## 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

(1) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the following required:

(h) Details of children's attendance, including their arrival and departure times at the service in real time, were readily available.

(i) A staff roster was available detailing the start and finish times for all staff members.

(j) A sample 10 records documenting medication given to children was reviewed. Each record included all appropriate and relevant details.

(k) Records detailing accidents, injuries, and incidents involving children were readily available. A sample of 10 records were reviewed, each record contained the appropriate and relevant details.

### 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

##### General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was electronically controlled by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the care rooms. The side gate to the outdoor area was secured with a sliding bolt mechanism that was out of reach of the children. The person in charge documented the inspectors' visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents and medicines. Daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments were completed to promptly manage any risks identified.

##### Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues.

The soiled nappies were removed to the outdoor bins following nappy changes being completed.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments which were observed to be clean and tidy.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored.

##### Safe Sleep:

There was a rest area in each of the care rooms for any child who wished to take a break from activities or rest. Sunflower room was transitioned to accommodate children requiring sleep for a period of the day. Sufficient low-level beds were available for any child in the service requiring sleep. Bed linen was stored in individual containers. The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and practice. The environmental temperature of the care room when used for sleep and the two sleep rooms were maintained between 18<sup>o</sup>-22<sup>o</sup> Celsius as there were air conditioning units available to control the environmental room temperature.

##### Fire Safety:

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and staff members were familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. The fire exits were not obstructed.

### Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for three staff members; however, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. There were no visibility strips on the glass patio doors on the main corridor, in Sunflower, Clever Cats and Daffodils rooms. This created a potential risk of injury to a child if they failed to recognise the glass panel.
3. There was a break in the plastic surface of the hop up step used by the children to reach the sink in the sanitary area adjacent to Sunflower room which could cause potential injury to a child if the step broke while a child was using it.

#### Infection Control:

4. The nappy changing practices observed were not consistent with the nappy change step by step procedure that was displayed in the nappy change area as evidenced by the following observations:
  - The staff did not wash their hands at the start of the nappy changing procedure.
  - The staff did not always wash their hands at the end of the nappy change procedure.
  - Children's hands were not washed following their nappy being changed and prior to returning to the care room.
  - The single use disposable apron and gloves were not removed at the point that the soiled nappy and used cleaning material were bagged up prior to being disposed of.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Following the inspection we immediately applied for the garda vetting renewals that were not dated within the past three years. We have submitted renewal dates on our Outlook Calendar, this will issue us with a reminder 6months in advance of a renewal. This timeframe provides us with ample time to apply & renew in advance of the three-year period.

2. Window Stickers were purchased and stuck to the glass doors as required. We added visibility strips to our care room risk assessment to ensure that they are displayed at all times and are checked regularly going forward.
3. The step was immediately removed and replaced. Spare steps were in storage. We have added the following to the sanitary risk assessment: Any items to support toilet training such as steps, toilet seats (inserts etc) are clean and in good/ safe working order. (no cracks). This will be checked daily.

### **Infection Control:**

4. A copy of our nappy changing procedure was issued to all staff on the day of the inspection.  
We have introduced a weekly/ fortnightly or monthly spot check on nappy changing, this will be carried out by members of our management team to ensure compliance in this area and ensure that the correct procedures are followed.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

1. Garda vetting records for three staff members.
2. Photograph, care room risk assessment and manager risk assessment document.
3. Photograph and sanitary area risk assessment document.

### **Infection Control:**

4. Two documents including revised nappy changing procedure and nappy change spot check record.

### **Summary Comment**

The written corrective action response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
    - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
    - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
    - (iii) an employee, or
    - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
  - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a), (b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The registered provider confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

### 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) Persons were trained in in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in each care room.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children was available to the children attending the service.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(c )

- Four internal sanitary areas were not ventilated as the ceiling windows in two of the rooms were not opened and the mechanical ventilation in two area was not switched on.
- The window in the toilet in the sanitary area used by Clever Cats room was closed.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

- The windows were opened, and mechanical ventilation was switched on immediately. We have added the opening of windows and turning on of mechanical ventilation in these areas to our manager morning checks. Prior to opening at 7.30am this action will be completed daily.
- The windows were opened, and mechanical ventilation was switched on immediately. We have added the opening of windows and turning on of mechanical ventilation in these areas to our manager morning checks. Prior to opening at 7.30am this action will be completed daily.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

1., 2. Manager risk assessment document.

## **Summary Comment**

The written corrective action response and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 29 (c).