

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KE175		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Messy Hand's Pre-School		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	1534 Allenwood North, Allenwood, Naas, Co. Kildare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	W91 RWD6		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Joann Talbot		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	07/06/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM n/a
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare. W91 X38W		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Therese Duignan		
<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

Messy Hands Pre-School was established in 2011 and provides sessional care and education to preschool children aged between two and six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9.30am - 12.30 hours. The service is located in a purpose-built premises located at the rear of the registered providers own property in a semi-rural setting. The service consists of a large care room and there is a large secure outdoor play area to the front of the premises. Parking and set down facilities are available.

### Staffing

Messy Hands Pre-School is a single-handed service run solely by the registered provider. A second person familiar with the operation of the service, is within close distance and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

The registered provider works directly with the children.

### 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 inspections 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.

### Additional Information

1. A written immediate action notice under Regulation 25(1) – First Aid was issued to the registered provider by the Early Years Inspector on 7 June 2023.
2. Written responses received by the Early Years Inspector on 8 and 10 June 2023 from the registered provider in relation to the immediate action notice were accepted.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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) There was a designated person in charge.
- (b) The designated person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection service.

Two records were reviewed

(2)

- (a) One written and verified past employer references was available in respect of two adults whose records were reviewed.
- (b) One written and verified past reference from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of two adults whose records were reviewed.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two adults.

(d) Not applicable, as no adult had lived outside the state.

(4) One adult working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were nine children attending the service being supervised directly by one adult.

(3) The minimum ratio of adult to children was adhered to during the morning.

(8)(c) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge operating the service was at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

## 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

### Compliance Information

The children were cared for by the same adult which enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence within the service.

Children were observed to be engaged, happy, content and relaxed within the care room and in the outdoor area.

The staff member ensured the children were supported in all aspects of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing and demonstrated warmth, kindness, affection and respect in all interactions with the children. Children were spoken to using their first name, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones during all interactions.

The service had a healthy eating policy, and the snacks were observed to be healthy. Mealtimes were social experiences and the staff member sat with the children at snack time. There was lots of conversation and laughter between the children.

Children were supervised and assisted with hand washing depending on their age and stage of development.

A suitable rest area with soft furnishings was available should a child wish to rest or take a break from activities.

The care room was well resourced and presented to provide children with the opportunity for child led imaginative play. Children were encouraged to take part in activities and afforded opportunities to make choices. Individual preferences were accommodated as to what and how long children wished to engage with specific chosen activities.

The children were provided with outdoor play daily. The outdoor area was spacious and had lots of space for playground games, a large wooden sand unit with plenty of associative toys to enable the children to extend their play.

### 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 to the service was controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school room. 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. The registered provider ensured that issues requiring maintenance or repair were promptly addressed.

##### 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 member supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. A written cleaning schedule was displayed and maintained for the room environment which was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Facilities for nappy changing were available.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. Written parental consents were available should medication be required to be administered to children. The staff member was familiar with the safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medication was safely stored out of the reach of children.

##### Safe Sleep:

There was a comfortable rest area available for any child who wished to read quietly or take a break from activities for a while.

##### Fire Safety:

The staff member was familiar with the fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Assembly point signage was clearly displayed. The fire exits were not obstructed.

##### Outing:

The service does not conduct outings.

### 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

- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in the care room.
  - (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available to the children attending the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) There was no person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children immediately available to the children attending the service.

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

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

- (1) The registered provider completed the First Aid Response (FAR) training on 13, 14 and 15 June 2023 and is awaiting the certificate. Emergency contact person is qualified in First Aid Response (FAR).

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Email correspondence confirming place booked by First Aid trainer.  
First Aid Certificate for emergency contact person.

#### Summary Comment

1. A written immediate action notice under Regulation 25(1) – First Aid was issued to the registered provider by the Early Years Inspector on 7 June 2023.
2. Written responses received by the Early Years Inspector on 8 and 10 June 2023 from the registered provider in relation to the immediate action notice were accepted.

Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 25.

### 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 fire drills completed in the service; the last recorded fire drill was 8 May 2023.
  - (b) A maintenance record was kept of the firefighting and smoke alarm system in the premises. The firefighting equipment was serviced on 20 February 2022 and the smoke alarm system were serviced on 14 December 2022.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously 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

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2024. The insurance provided cover for 11 children.