

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KK001
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Droichead Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Friary Complex, Mill Street, Callan, Co. Kilkenny
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R95 HH52
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Laura Keating
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	01/10/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	38	PM	14
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<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

Droichead Childcare is registered to provide a full day care service to children aged between 1 and 6 years of age. It is situated in the town of Callan in Co Kilkenny. The service is open Monday-Friday from 8.15am to 6.00pm. The service consists of three large preschool rooms. There is a wobbler/toddler room, preschool one and preschool two. There is a designated dining area in the center hallway in the service. There is also a secure outdoor play area which can be accessed from all the pre-school rooms.

### Staffing

There are 14 staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 10 Policies and procedures

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,

Regulation 17 Information for parents,

Regulation 22 Food and Drink,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,

Regulation 25 First aid,

Regulation 26 Fire Safety,

Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.*

#### Compliance Information

**(1)(a)(b)**

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 14 staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

There were 28 written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service. There were a further two references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members including the registered provider. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)

The manager had ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. For example, staff who spoke to the inspector were aware of the behaviour management policy in place in the service.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on infection control, and the policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service.

## 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)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on both days of the inspection.

#### Day 1

At 10.30 am

There were 38 children in the care of 9 staff.

At 1.30 pm

There were 14 children in the care of 7 staff.

There was also a chef employed to prepare all meals and snacks provided for the children. The manager was also available to assist in the rooms if required.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

### Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

There was an information handbook for parents who were proposing to enrol their child in the service. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information booklet provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on the day to day running of the service including the healthy eating policy and behaviour management in the service.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

There was a good supply of art equipment in the all the preschool rooms. There was a supply of toys and equipment stored on easily accessible shelves in all rooms. Of particular note was the home corner in preschool room 1. There was a kitchen with utensils and a small table and chairs for children to use their imaginations when playing “house”. The toddler room had a supply of age-appropriate toys such as rattles, shaped plastic bricks and story books. The children had direct access to an outdoor area attached to the toddler room which was supplied with ride on toys which were stored in a play house in the area.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy. All meals and snacks were supplied and cooked on the premises by the chef. The dinner was served at mid-day and consisted of two large chickens which were cooked on the morning of the inspection. There was an aroma of cooking chicken wafting from the kitchen which the children noticed. The inspector heard one child say, "I am looking forward to my dinner". The main meal consisted of chicken, mixed vegetables and mashed potatoes. Children were served extra portions when they requested additional helpings.

The meals were served in the rooms with the staff helping children to wash their hands and set the tables. Water was available to drink. On the afternoon of the inspection children were served fruit, cheese and brioche buns and water to drink.

### 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

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The outdoor areas in the service were safe, suitable and secure.

#### Infection Control

The service was clean and had been recently painted. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. Staff were vigilant in attending to children's personal hygiene during the day. The staff were observed to be attentive in supporting the children in washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided across the service.

### Safe Sleep

The service had one designated sleep room. Individual bed linen was available. Staff who spoke with the inspector, were aware of safe sleep practices. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in the importance of adhering to safe sleep guidelines. For example, they were knowledgeable on how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and temperature of the sleep room. Observations on the sleeping children's colour, position and breathing were carried out and recorded every 10 minutes.

### 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)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position to the staff on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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)

There was a records of fire drills which had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was carried out in September 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was last serviced in April 2024 and smoke alarm were serviced February 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of 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 insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.