

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KK028
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Name of Service:	From Home 2 Home
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Address of Service:	9 Maudlin Court, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny
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Eircode:	R95NR40
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Name of Registered Provider:	Siobhan Wemyss
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	30/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This sessional service is located in a housing estate in Thomastown, county Kilkenny. A sessional service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The premises is a detached two-story building consisting of two preschool rooms, toilets, kitchen, a large outdoor area and outdoor classrooms to the rear of the service. The service mainly operates as an outdoor service. A registered school age service is also provided.

Staffing

There are three staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. Staff qualifications range from a level 5 to a level 9 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/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

regulation 9 management and recruitment,
regulation 10 policies and procedures,
regulation 11 staff ratios,

regulation 19 health welfare and development of the child,
regulation 23 safeguarding health welfare and development of the 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 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)(b)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. The roster demonstrated there was a person in charge at all times when the service was operating.

Following a review of documentation and a discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed there were three staff employed in the service including the registered provider.

(2)(a)(b)

All required written and validated references were available on file in the service.

(c)

There was a Garda vetting certificates available on file for all staff working in the service. The service has demonstrated compliance with the requirement to have all staff Garda vetting renewed every 3 years.

(4)

All staff were qualified at level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection included the policy on the management of accidents and incidents in the service and the policy on infection control.

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)

There was an adequate number of staff always working with the children during the inspection.

(3)

At 10:30 there were 13 children aged 2 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

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

A sample of children’s enrolment 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 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

These findings were evidenced through direct observation, review of documentation and discussion with the staff on the day of inspection.

(1)(a)

The service operated as an outdoor service. The children were dressed in light clothing and sunhats as it was a particularly warm day. Staff who spoke to the inspector said parents were reminded to apply sunblock before the children arrived at the service in the morning. Parents also supplied sunblock which was stored in each child's bag and reapplied by staff if required. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children spend all their time in the outdoor area and only go inside when the weather is very bad.

There was a monthly plan for activities and emerging interests displayed. Children were observed enjoying free play, which was facilitated and supported by the staff. Some children were observed enjoying the ride on toys, some children were observed playing with dolls and some were observed relaxing on the large leather couches reading books. The outdoor area was set up to maximise the free play opportunities for the children attending. Areas of interest were well developed and resourced. Staff actively supported free play. "Well done, I like the way you did that" was frequently said to the children.

The staff were observed facilitating a game to demonstrate what objects float. A container was placed in the middle of the table and children were asked to place objects in that might float. A toothbrush and a small toy were an example of some of the objects placed in the container.

Staff were observed to interact well with the children on the day of inspection. Children were encouraged to share and play with their friends in the outdoor area.

The outdoor area had been developed to support the children's learning and development with care and consideration. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they observed that the children were happier spending their time outside. There was soft matting throughout the outdoor area to prevent injuries if the children fell. The outdoor area consisted of two sheltered areas and a large open space for children to play in.

The sheltered area directly beside the entrance was well resourced with play and learning equipment for the use of the children. There was a plentiful supply of art equipment such as paints and crayons. There were ride on toys and benches for the children to sit on.

There was a second sheltered area consisting of large leather couches and tables which gave the children an opportunity to relax in the area.

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

The registered provider took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the early years children attending the service:

GENERAL SAFETY:

The service operated an intercom system situated on a gate outside the entrance to the service. Emergency exits in the building were unobstructed. Cleaning agents were kept out of the reach of children.

INFECTION CONTROL:

The service appeared to be clean with no obvious repairs required. Cleaning schedules were maintained daily. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the importance of infection control measures in place in the service. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and after messy play.

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 a first aid responder course available to the children attending the early years' service. The rota demonstrated that one of the two staff qualified in a first aid responder course was always available when the service was in operation.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available for the use of the children attending the early years 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 record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in April 2025.

(b)

There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment available in the service. This maintenance was carried out in March 2025. The annual servicing of the smoke alarm was carried out in service in December 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that adequate insurance was in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.