

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY037
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Currow Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Currow, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 E981
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Catherine Fleming
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	28/11/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>15</td> <td>PM</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	AM	15	PM	None
AM	15	PM	None		

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Currow Playschool is a private early years service that is registered to provide care for children aged between the age of 2 years and 6 years. Currently the service provide care for children aged between 2 years 8 months and 5 years. The service is registered as operating between the hours of 9:00 am and 12 mid-day Monday to Friday inclusive. The service operates from a single spacious playroom in a modular building on the grounds of the national school.

### Staffing

There are 2 adults employed in the service, of whom 1 is the registered provider.

### 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 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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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

(2) The registered provider confirmed that 2 adults were employed in the service and the recruitment records in relation to these 2 adults were inspected.

- (a) 2 written references with a record of validation were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 2 written references with a record of validation were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 2 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as the adults in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4) The 2 adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 6.

### 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) Throughout the period of inspection, the registered provider did ensure that there was an adequate number of adults caring for the children present.

(3) The children attending the service on the day of inspection were aged between 3 and 4 years. There were 2 adults caring for 15 children attending the service on a sessional basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate single-handedly.

### 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

- The adults caring for the children were kind, caring and respectful towards the children in the service.
- The children were observed parting in various activities. These included: in practicing for the upcoming Nativity play, colouring Nativity templates, playing in groups at the sand box, at the tuff tray with snow, Christmas themed decorations, in pairs with various vehicles and the farm set on the floor and individually in "Santa's post office" area; cutting, sticking and gluing.
- The toilets were located in the playroom where the children had unrestricted access to use them. The inspector observed the children independently using the toilets, the adults assisted any child who required assistance with re-dressing afterwards.
- The children had unrestricted access within the playroom during the session.
- The inspector observed the children helping themselves to their respective water bottles from their bags within the playroom early on during the inspection. The adults informed the inspector that water from the sink in the playroom is suitable for drinking.
- The children were observed availing of outdoor play time within the designated outdoor play area. The children were dressed appropriately in coats, hats and some had gloves.

- The children expressed great enthusiasm and joy when preparing to go outdoors and were speaking about what they were going to play with.
- The outdoor area had a concrete surface and an area of soft square matting. A small overhead canopy was in place, a range of toys that included ride on toys, a selection of balls, rackets, a standalone basketball ring, various vehicles, a wooden kitchen with pots, pans, jugs, a drum of water to enable water play that is re-filled by the adults as needed, a tuff tray containing wood bark and small wooden blocks, large blocks, balancing beams, chalk boards and mirrors securely mounted on the surrounding fencing. The children participated in various activities, ride on toys, water play, using paint brushes and water painting the wooden kitchen and finding ice, feeling it and smashing it on the ground.
- The parents/ guardians provide all the food consumed on the premise.
- The children had their mealtime after playing outdoors, having washed their hands. They sat at the table of choice and were assisted by the adults with opening various food packaging and arranging their food items.
- The food observed included for example sandwiches, cheese, and fruit: apples, grapes, strawberries and blueberries.
- The children had ample time to eat their food, the children who had finished went off playing with their toys of choice.
- The inspector observed the adults reminding children to share, take turns and assistance with problem solving.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The children attending the service were checked in and out of the service each day. This was recorded daily in the allocated roll book.

## 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) 2 adults working directly with the children had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the certification was available on file.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was provided; it was stored on a high-level shelf in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to the adults at all times and was out of the reach of the children.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) The first aid box was not adequately stocked. The following items were not in stock in addition to the contents provided: -

- 2 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (medium).
- 3 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (extra-large)
- 6 individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings (large)-
- Pocket face mask
- 2 Crepe bandages (7cm)
- Water burns dressings (1 small and 1 large)
- 20 Individually wrapped disinfectant wipes.

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

The registered provider stated that: -

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

The first aid box is now restocked and to ensure it will be restocked in case of an accident/incident.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the first aid box restocked was received in the office of the early years inspectorate on 30/11/'23.

### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

## 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) The service had maintained in writing a record of the following: -
- (a) A record of the fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 15.11.2023.
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment was available. The last maintenance check for the fire extinguishers took place on 25.04.2022 and for the smoke alarm was 1.08.2022. It was acknowledged the registered provider informed the inspector that the maintenance for both the fire fighting equipment and the smoke alarm is scheduled by the national school to be done on the same day as the early years service.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the entrance/lobby area and in the playroom.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) The maintenance record for the fire extinguishers demonstrated they were not service annually. There was no record on file for the maintenance of the smoke alarm. It was acknowledged the registered provider stated the maintenance in respect of both the fire extinguishers and the smoke alarm is arranged in conjunction with the National school , this was in progress.

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

The registered provider stated that: -

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire extinguishers and the smoke alarm must be serviced annually as a fire safety measure.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The maintenance certificates for the fire extinguishers dated January 2024 and the smoke alarm dated 17.01'24 was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The information provided on the insurance certificate included:

- the contact details for the insurance provider
- the name and address of the service insured.
- the category of insurance cover for the service
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 22 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27.03.2024.