

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY045
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Firies Community Childcare Centre CLG
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Church Road, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 FF8X
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	James Daly
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	31/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	19
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<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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Firies Community Childcare CLG is a community based early years service registered to provide part-time day care to children aged between 2 years and 6 years. There are 2 sessions provided within the registered operating hours between the hours of 8:50am and 11:50 am and 11:55 am and 2:55 pm, Monday to Friday. The service also caters for school aged care including provision of a breakfast club.

The service operates from the community centre with 2 rooms, a spacious playroom and a quiet room. There is a designated secured outdoor play area with a covered in section located to the rear of the building and a new garden area with grassed and bark mulched surface that has been developed and currently evolving since the last inspection. It is located at the front of the building and children go in small groups at a time, it is used for planting flowers, fruits and vegetables and for play based activities.

### Staffing

There are 6 adults currently employed to work directly with the children, the registered provider does not work in the service with the children and there is 1 adult completing a Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare at Level 5 training on work placement.

### 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.

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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) There is the designated person in charge and a named person who can deputize as required.
- (b) At all times during the period when the preschool service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.
- (2) The person in charge confirmed that 4 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 29/01/2020, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 4 adults were reviewed.
- (a) 6 written validated references were on file from a past employer.
- (b) 2 written validated references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file in respect of the 4 adults.
- (4) The adults working directly with the children had attained Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) in childcare training at Level 5 and above.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(d) Police Vetting was not on file in respect of 1 adult who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Police Vetting was applied for 1 staff member and received.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Police Vetting for 1 adult was received.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for this regulation has been met.

### 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.*

*(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 was an adequate number of adults maintained at all times.

(2) There were 2 adults caring for 15 children aged between the age of 3 years and 5 years, 5 children were attending on a sessional basis and 10 children were attending on a part-time basis. There were 19 children present in the afternoon with 4 adults caring for them.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8) (a) The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation

### 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

- (1) The 12 records inspected had the required detail as per(a) to (i) inclusive.

### 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;*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The following records were maintained:
- (h) details of attendance by a pre-school child on a daily basis.
  - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

### 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

##### BASIC NEEDS

- Healthy eating is promoted within the service. Nutritious meals are served to the children with all the food provided by the parents/guardians.
- The children attending the service on a part-time day care basis are provided with 2 meals.
- The mealtime observed on inspection was relaxed and unhurried as children were given enough time to eat and enjoy their food and drinks with pleasant social interaction among the children and the adults.
- The children had individual laminated place mats for the tables with their photograph and pictures of their favourite toys and animals.
- The food served included sandwiches, rice cakes, crackers, yogurts, buttered brown bread and fruit: - sliced melon, apples and strawberries.
- The person in charge informed the inspector that the children recently took part in a Healthy Eating activity, the service provided a variety of fruit and vegetables for tasting. This activity supported and reinforced children to develop knowledge and skills to make nutritious food choices.
- The children enjoyed free movement within the playroom and pre-dominantly played in the outdoor play area that is directly accessible from the playroom during the session. The area consisted of a spacious covered area, fixed play equipment with soft matting underfoot, a range of play materials and toys of which some were stored in the shed located adjacent to the area.
- The children happily played for example with water that included splashing about with their feet in containers of water on the ground, played with sand, the kitchen and associated utensils, a container of water with ocean animals.
- The area was fully enclosed with colourfully painted timber fencing, there were child sized benches, wall mounted mirrors, and high-level wind chimes scattered throughout.
- The children wore sunhats and sunscreen, and additional sunscreen was applied as informed by the staff.

- The children played with water where the staff filled large containers on the ground and the children happily splashed about in, played with sand, with the mud kitchen, and in the fairy garden area.
- There was a variety of toys and play materials stored in the outdoor shed directly accessible within the area.
- The staff guided and supported children to manage their own personal care for example putting on their sunhats, washing their hands and cleaning their faces after mealtime with tissues whilst using the wall mounted mirror in the playroom.
- Visual instructions were displayed on a low-level press in the playroom that were used to support the children with personal care for example. The inspector observed the staff using the visuals pointing to the handwashing sign and accompanied the child to the bathroom to wash hands.
- Children's individual toileting were addressed during the session.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilets located within the playroom.
- The staff issued gentle reminders to the children during the session to go to the toilet.
- The staff caring for the children were kind, caring and understanding if the children's individual needs.
- They comforted children as needed and assisted children in settling in on arrival. A designated box with coloured rice and a variety of small animals, which is regularly changed, is kept in the entrance area, the person in charge informed the inspector it is used to assist children who require comforting and re-assurance on arrival to the centre.
- A designated rest room is located adjacent to the playroom. Children can access this throughout the session to take a break from activities and rest as they so wish on the large spacious covered mattress with a variety of cushions. The room was used for a group activity prior to mealtime during the inspection.

### 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) 6 adults working in the service had current First Aid Responder training for which the certifications were on file.

(2)

(a) There was an adequately equipped first aid box stored in a secured cupboard in the playroom.

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

### 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) Each fire drill had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 29/04/2023.

(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance checks of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm.

The records on file demonstrated the last check on the fire extinguishers and the smoke alarm was 08/02/2023.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was 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

A copy of the insurance certification for the service was on file. 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 33 children.

The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'24