

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY073
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Stars Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Greenfields, Firies, Killarney, Co. Kerry
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V93 H66K
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Edwina Moynihan , Elaine O'Connor
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	13/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Little Stars Childcare is a private early years service that offers full day care, part-time and sessional care to children aged between 0 and 6 years. The service is in operation Monday to Friday inclusive between the hours of 08:30 am and 6pm

### Staffing

There are currently 15 adults employed in the service, of whom 14 work directly with the children and 1 adult employed in the kitchen. Both registered providers work in the service in the childcare rooms and in the office on administrative duties.

### 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 providers*, 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.*

(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.*

(3) *The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered providers are the designated persons in charge and there is a named person who can deputize as required.

(b) At all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated persons in charge or the named deputy is on the premises.

(2) The registered provider confirmed that 3 adults had begun working at the service since the previous inspection undertaken on 12/04/2021, therefore recruitment records in relation to these 3 adults were reviewed.

(a) 5 written validated references were on file from a past employer.

(b) 1 reference was on file from a source other than a past employer.

(c) A Garda Vetting Disclosure was on file for each of the 3 adults.

(d) Not applicable as the 3 adults in question did not reside outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(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

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2)(c), Garda Vetting in respect of 3 adults were not carried out prior to them being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with children attending the pre-school service.

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

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

The registered provider stated that all staff members will be Garda Vetted before they commence employment in a timely manner.

Applications for Garda Vetting will be followed up immediately.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

### 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) The registered providers did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2) There were 4 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection.

#### Toddler room 1

There were 2 staff caring for 3 children aged between 1 and 2 years attending the service on a full day care basis.

### Playschool room

There were 2 staff caring for 6 children aged between 2 years and 4 years, 1 child was attending on a part-time basis and 5 children were attending on a full day care basis.

### Junior pre-school room

There was 1 staff member caring for 3 children aged between 3 years and 4 years attending on a full day care basis.

### Senior pre-school room

There were 2 staff caring for 10 children aged between 4 years and 10 years, 3 were pre-school children, 2 attending on a full day care basis and 1 attending on a sessional basis and 7 school aged children attending on a full day care basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a) The registered providers did ensure that 2 adults are on the premises 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 15 records inspected had all 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

The following records were kept: -

- (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.*

#### Compliance Information

- The service provides the main hot meal cooked daily in the kitchen by an allocated staff member.
- The main meals are cooked and plated in the kitchen and distributed to each of the care rooms where the staff serve it to the children.
- The food for the snack times is supplied by the parents of the children attending. is prepared and plated in the kitchen by a designated person who distributes it to each playroom.
- The meals and snacks are served no more than 3 hours apart.
- On speaking to the staff, the inspector was informed that snacks and water are available to children when needed.
- Feeding chairs were provided for the younger children at mealtimes and the older children sat on the low-level chairs at the low-level tables at mealtimes.

- The inspector observed that at mealtimes the children were given ample time to eat without being rushed in an atmosphere that was relaxed and conversations between the children and the adults caring for them.
- The staff sat with the children assisted and assisted feeding the younger children as was required.
- Children who had finished eating before others had activities available and accessible to them in each of the rooms.
- The food observed for the main meal was fish fingers, beans and mashed potatoes and for snack time was yogurts, rice cakes, crackers, cucumber, buttered brown bread, cheese, bananas and apples.
- The inspector was informed that water and milk is offered with the main meal.
- The service had a stock of crackers, cheese, bread and a variety of fruit in the kitchen.
- The staff recognised the children's individual cues of tiredness when indicated the need for rest and sleep.
- On speaking to the staff, they informed the inspector they work in partnership with the parents in relation to the children's individual sleep patterns and needs.
- Children enjoyed free movement in the playrooms observed.
- Children had unrestricted access to the toilets that were located adjacent to the playrooms.
- Nappy changing was carried out in a timely manner as needed during the day.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Colourful storage units with some open shelving were installed in the Junior pre-school room since the last inspection.
- The children attending Toddler room 1 had a designated outdoor play area accessible directly from the room.
- The main outdoor area was re-developed since the last inspection. A new artificial grass surface was installed that was surrounded by painted timber panelling, mirrors mounted on the fencing, large planter pots on the ground, low-level built-in seating used to store toys, a playhouse, various push toys, a small climbing frame, balls and blocks for example. There is a partial canopy area with a kerbing surface beneath it.

## 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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the building unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premise.
- The cleaning agents observed were stored within the secured cupboards and on high level shelving in the playrooms.

##### Infection Control:

- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels provided at the wash hand basins to facilitate effective handwashing by the children and by the adults.
- Children's toiletries were individually labelled.
- Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet and prior to mealtimes.
- Fridges were allocated to each of the care rooms for the hygienic storage of children's perishable food items.
- Linen provided for the cots that was individual to each child and was observed to be clean and dry

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.*

#### Compliance Information

- (d) 1. There were 2 new windows with high level closure devices installed in the Junior pre-school room since the last inspection.
2. The entire building was painted in full since the last inspection.

## 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 65 children.

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