

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY082				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Dingle Childcare Services Limited T/A Mol an Óige				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Aiseanna na hOige, Ard na Greine, Dingle, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 DT44				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gemma Durrant				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	24/07/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>41</td> <td>PM</td> <td>22</td> </tr> </table>	AM	41	PM	22
AM	41	PM	22		
<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
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Dingle Childcare Services limited T/A Mol an Óige is a privately owned early years service that provides full day care, part-time and sessional care, catering for children between the age of 0 to 6 years. The service operates between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:30 pm Monday to Friday. The premise is a purpose-built facility, there are three playrooms allocated to early years children. The service does not provide school aged care. There are designated enclosed outdoor play areas situated to the rear and to the side of the building available and accessible to the children attending the service.

### Staffing

Currently, there are 13 adults employed by the service, 12 of whom currently work directly with the children. Each of the 13 adults have attained a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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. 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.

### Additional Information

The Montessori room is no longer in operation. The registered provider had commenced the proposed change in circumstances process to inform the inspectorate in respect of the decrease in the numbers of children to be accommodated in the service.

### 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) The registered provider had ensured that both a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge was assigned to the setting.
- (b) When the unannounced inspection commenced, the deputy was on duty at the service. The deputy in charge remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 13 adults employed in the service were the subject of inspection.
- (a) 22 validated references were on file from a previous employer.
- (b) 3 validated references from a source other than previous employers were on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 13 adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice in respect of 6 adults, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
- (d) Police vetting was on file for the 4 adults who has resided outside of the jurisdiction.
- (4) Each of the staff members had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), with copies of the relevant qualifications maintained on file.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> written validated reference was not on file for 1 adult.
- (2)(d)
1. Police vetting was not on file for 1 adult who had lived outside of the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
  2. Police Vetting on file for 1 adult was not translated into English by an officially recognised translator.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)

The 1 validated reference was obtained. The staff checklist in each staff file has been updated.

(2)(d)

1. The Police vetting in respect of 1 staff member was obtained.
2. The translated Police vetting was received. There will be a thorough checking for any gaps in C. V's to identify any persons who live outside of the country.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a) The validated written reference.

(2)(d)

1. The police vetting in respect of 1 adult.
2. The certified translated Police vetting for 1 adult.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement 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 provider did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2)

There were 3 care rooms in operation on the day of the inspection namely the Baby room, Toddler room and the Curiosity room.

### Baby room

There was 2 staff members caring for 7 children aged between 1 and 3 years attending on a full day care basis.

### Toddler room

There were 2 staff caring for 12 children aged between 2 and 3 years, attending on a part-time full day care basis.

### Curiosity room

There were 3 adults caring for 22 children aged between 3 and 5 years attending on a part-time and full day care basis.

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 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

- The children observed at mealtimes had ample time to eat their food in a relaxed unhurried environment.
- There was an adequate number of tables and chairs provided for the children at mealtimes. Feeding chairs were on the premise for younger children, these were not observed in use on the day of the inspection.
- The food observed served to the children included spaghetti Bolognese with garlic bread, chicken with vegetables and rice, brown bread, sandwiches, cheese toasted cheese sandwiches, and fruit with milk and water to drink.

- The children's drinks bottles were individually labelled, and water was accessible to the children attending the curiosity room.
- The rest areas in the care rooms consisted of soft seating and soft matting on the floor where children could opt out of an activity or rest as they needed to during the session.
- The inspector observed nappy changing took place as was needed during the session for children attending the baby and toddler rooms.
- The children had free movement within the care rooms on the day of the inspection.
- The staff caring for the children were observed to be kind and caring.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. The children attending the Toddler room and the Baby room did not have direct and unlimited access to their water bottles during the session, the bottles were stored on shelving that was too high for the children to reach them. It was acknowledged the person in charge informed the inspector the service did propose to move the said shelving to a lower level.

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

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

1. The water racks have been moved to a lower level for the children to access their drinks at all times.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographs of the re-positioned water racks.

### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

### 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 door to the building was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting the building unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access into the building. A buzzer entry system at the entrance door was in place for each of the childcare rooms for parents, guardians and visitors to the centre.
- The outdoor play area observed on inspection was secured with fencing, walls and gates.

##### Infection Control:

- There was warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels at each sink and pedal operated lidded bins for waste disposal.
- A pedal operated, sealed and lined bin was in use to dispose of nappies in the nappy changing room.
- There was a supply of disposable plastic aprons, disposable gloves provided at the nappy changing stations.
- The 2 nappy changing mats in use and the surrounding area was clean and dry.
- The inspector observed some tables that were cleaned down prior to and after a mealtime.

##### Safe Sleep:

- There was a record of the child's colour, position and breathing maintained for the 10-minute checks for children that used the sleep facilities in the service. The temperature recorded in the sleep room 1 was 20 degrees Celsius and for sleep room 2 was 19.6 degrees Celsius.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. There were 4 large boxes of toys stacked on top of each on the hallway leading to the children's toilets and to the nappy changing room posing a risk of injury to children.
2. There were 2 sets of 4 chairs stacked up in the in the Baby room that posed a risk of injury to children.

##### Infection Control:

3. The ceiling vents were unclean in the sanitary accommodation serving the Curiosity room and, in the nappy changing room serving the Baby and Toddler rooms posing a risk of the spread of infection.
4. There were 4 unlabelled toiletries on the nappy changing unit posing a risk of cross contamination.
5. The children were observed not to have washed their hands prior to the mid-day meal in the Toddler room posing a risk of the spread of infection.

### Safe Sleep:

- The inspector was informed that some of the 10-minute sleep checks carried out for children who sleep are conducted from the door of the sleep rooms posing a risk of injury to children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- The boxes were removed and are stored in the attic. Risk assessments will be carried out daily. A verbal meeting was held with staff, the manager will be made aware of any future obstructions in the hallway.
- The chairs have been moved outside of the room. The staff have been told that the chairs are not to be stacked, they are to be placed outside of the room.

##### Infection Control:

- The ceiling vents have been cleaned and they have been included on the weekly cleaning checklist.
- All the children's creams/toiletries will be labelled with the children's names and placed in each of the children's cubbies to avoid cross contamination.
- Children must wash their hands before mealtimes.

### Safe Sleep:

- A meeting was held to refresh staff on the importance of safe sleep, that all staff must enter the room to carry out the checks every 10 minutes to check the children's breathing, skin colouring and position. The staff received the safe sleep policy individually. 5 staff members have completed an online training "Facilitating sleep programme". All new staff members must also complete this course.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

- A photograph of the clear hallway.
- A photograph of the removed stacked chairs.

##### Infection Control:

- Photographs of the clean vents.
- Photographs and the statements are accepted as evidence.
- The statement is accepted as evidence.

### Safe Sleep:

- The statement is accepted as evidence.

### Summary Comment

The requirement has been met.

### 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 records indicated that each child was checked in and out of the service by the staff members.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there were staff available at all times with appropriate first aid responder (FAR) training. The FAR certifications indicated that 10 staff members held current up to date training.

(2) (a) There was a suitable equipped first aid box available to the children attending. The boxes were stored at a high level out of the reach of the children.

(b) The first aid equipment was available to the children at all times.

## 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 furnished to the inspector.

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, that is full day care.
- the number of children covered by the insurance was for 77 children.
- The expiry date of the current insurance cover was 27/03/'25.