

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LD010
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Scallywags
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Silver Birches, Stonepark, Longford, Co. Longford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	N39 EW44
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Bernie Mc Loughlin , Anne Igoe
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	25/10/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	37	PM	19
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon,
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy
<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

Sallywags is registered to provide full day, part time and sessional services to children aged from 12 months to 6 years of age. The service opens from 8:30 to 18:00 hours with sessional services provided from 9:30 until 12:30 hours. The service is registered to provide school aged services. There are four care-rooms, a kitchen, office, staff room and sanitary facilities in the premises that was purpose built for the provision of childcare services. The children have access to a number of enclosed outdoor play areas with play equipment and planting areas to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered providers work in the service daily. Nine staff including the registered providers work in the service. All staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training 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/ premises and facilities. The inspection 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

On the 26th of October 2023, an immediate action notice was issued, for Regulation 23 (Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child) as the water temperature from the warm tap of the wash hand basin in the nappy changing area, accessible to the children, were above the recommended 43°C upper safety limit to prevent a risk of scalding.

On the 1st of November 2023, the registered provider, advised that a professional plumber had been contacted and was on site on 26<sup>th</sup> of October, to investigate and rectify the water temperature readings. On the 1st<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the registered provider submitted photographic evidence that actions were taken to rectify the water temperatures, to ensure safety.

### 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, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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 was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.

(b) The registered providers were the persons in charge and on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises when the pre-school children were present.

The nine staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) Eighteen of the eighteen validated written references on file in respect of the nine staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the nine staff.

(d) Documentary evidence indicated that none of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, and therefore did not require police vetting.

(4) Nine staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the persons in charge ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 37 children present. All children were aged between 15 months to 5 years. There were eight staff directly caring for these children. The registered provider was supernumerary and acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection.

In the afternoon of the inspection, there were 19 children present. All children were aged between 15 months to 5 years of age. There were seven staff, directly caring for and supervising these children. The registered provider was supernumerary and acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### 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 staff encouraged and supported the children to be as independent, as possible.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner. The staff complied with the service's healthy eating policy.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. The staff used the correct language surrounding toileting.
- On the day of inspection, fourteen children from the playroom and ECCE room 3, wore nappies and were changed in the designated nappy changing areas, in a sensitive and timely manner, and on a regular basis.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax in a designated cosy area in each for the playrooms. Additionally, there was a designated sleep room with six cots for younger children's sleep provision and four stackable beds were available for an older child to rest if required.
- In the playroom, the children had soft floor matting / space to explore and move safely. There was adequate seating provided for a staff member to facilitate feeding and comforting a young child. The children in the playroom were observed playing with a selection of sensory equipment, musical instruments, shape sorters, building blocks, soft toys, a selection of books and activity centres.
- The children in the playroom played in the home area and construction areas and were also observed in the outdoor play area. The children have plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging. The children had opportunities to explore their environment. The children were observed linking, connecting, stacking, constructing, shape sorting.
- In the ECCE room 3, the children were observed initially chatting together while consuming their snack. They proceeded to play in the construction area, home area, dress-up area, and with musical instruments. Three of the children were doing sticker play at the tables. The staff were observed to be very engaged in the children's play activities with much conversation between the staff and the children.

- The older children in the ECCE room 1 and ECC room 2 had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance. Play activities and experiences were developmentally appropriate and suitably challenging. The children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment. The children were observed at free play, making puzzles, drawing/ painting, playing house / kitchen, using transport vehicles and at dress up / pretend play. The children were observed stacking, constructing, shape sorting, connecting, and playing with animals. The children chatted to the inspector about their most fun activities in preschool.
- In the outdoor area the children played in the playhouses, on rockers, slides and trikes and were observed playing group games.
- The staff read stories and children questioned the characters and gave their views. The children sang songs 'and chatted about colours. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?'. The staff acknowledged a child's achievements, 'well done', 'that's great' and the children were observed laughing and having fun.
- The staff supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships by -
  - having a key person system for each child,
  - showing respect for each unique child and developing their trust,
  - listening to the voice of the child as they communicate their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language,
  - using soft tones, the child's individual name, and getting down to their level and making eye contact,
  - providing opportunities for individual and small group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
  - providing opportunities for children to learn from each other and with each other, to work together, join in and contribute to projects and tasks,
  - working with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.
- On speaking with the staff, the inspector was informed that they verbally provided parents with daily information on their child's experiences in the pre-school including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in. This information was provided at collection times, by phone call, and by email. A monthly newsletter is also compiled for the parents.

- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them, and talking to the children in a variety of ways, discussing, questioning, modelling, and commentating, extending a child’s activities and initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences.
- The inspector noted the staff acknowledged a child’s achievements ‘that is great’ ‘well done’ and used questions such as ‘what should we do next?’, ‘is there any other way to do this?’, to allow children to critically think and explore.
- On the day of the inspection the staff showed kindness. They were thoughtful, supportive, and reassuring whilst caring for the children. They cared for children by being supportive while the children engaged in free play, role play, and creative play. A climate was fostered where the children knew their boundaries. The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive, and appropriate behaviours.
- Children were given positive alternatives, rather than just being told ‘no’. Children were supported in preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. Older children could identify, name, and explore their feelings both positive and negative.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day*

*(2) A registered provider-*

*(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or*

*(b) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016,*

*shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The design, organisation and resourcing of the pre-school environment supported each child's wellbeing, learning and development, within the ethos and philosophy of the service. The environment provided a range of challenging, diverse, creative, and enriching experiences for all children in line with their stage of development. The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried. The play materials and environment were changeable, flexible, and responsive to the emerging changing needs, preferences, and interests of the children. The staff encouraged children to interact and to engage with a range of materials, activities, and equipment in the environment, based on the child's choices, age and stage of development.

The indoor playrooms were designed and arranged to

- maintain a space that was clean, organised, and free of clutter,
  - accommodate children individually, and in small groups,
  - divide the space into areas that were supplied with materials organised in a way to support children's play and learning,
  - give all children access to the same facilities, activities and play opportunities, to promote their welfare and development.
- The equipment was stored on low-level shelving and was readily accessible by the pre-school children.
  - The play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate, they were designed to offer a child manipulative activity, to encourage hand eye co-ordination, to develop fine motor skills and logical thinking.

On the day of inspection four playrooms were used by the children.

### The Playground

- The children had soft floor matting / space to explore and move safely. There was adequate seating provided for a staff member to facilitate feeding and comforting a young child. There was a selection of musical activity toys, shape sorters, building blocks, jigsaws, puzzles, rattles, a variety of texture books and foam shapes.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, educational posters, wall mounted mirrors, photographs, nursery rhymes and children's artwork.
- There were a variety of clearly defined play areas to including a home area with a play kitchen and play accessories, baby dolls and soft toys. There was a construction / transport area with cars, trucks and building blocks. There was a tabletop area with a selection of jigsaws of varying levels of difficulty. There were animals, an art and craft area, a book area, and a soft matted area. There were linking, connecting, stacking, constructing, and shape sorting materials.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, educational posters, wall mounted mirrors, photographs, a birthday chart, and children's artwork.

### The ECCE Rooms

- There were a variety of materials to including home areas with play accessories. There were messy play areas with art and craft materials. There were construction areas with a selection of building blocks and accessories. There were transport vehicles including a train track and a selection of trains. There was a book area and a selection of tabletop activities including jigsaws, games, and sorting activities.
- There were dress up areas with clothing and accessories. There were a selection of musical instruments. There were links, connectors, puzzles, games, insets, paints, crayons, mark making materials, stampers, pencils, stencils, buttons, stick on eyes, feathers, and pom poms. There were tracks, transport vehicles, animals, and figurines. There were nature displays with items and pictures of Autumn and a selection of arts and crafts for Halloween made by the children to include Pumpkins, bats, and handprint ghosts.
- There were library book areas with a varied selection of age-appropriate books.
- Displayed on the walls were visual aids, educational materials, photographs, posters, and children's artwork with themes including Halloween decorations made by the children, our family wall, days of the week, numbers, happy birthday, this is me. There were also photographs of children engaged in activities.

(1)(b)

Rest / quiet area were provided in the playrooms in the form of child size seating, large cushions, soft matting to facilitate a child to rest or opt out of an activity if he or she chose to.

(3)(a)

### Outdoor areas

- The outdoor areas were surrounded by fencing, walls, and gates. The areas were covered with an impact absorbing matting, artificial grass, natural grass, and concrete pathways.
- The outdoor play equipment and materials were age and stage appropriate.
- One area was equipped with a selection of playhouses and a music wall and had artificial grass and impact absorbing matting as the surface.
- An additional play area was equipped with a sheltered play space with a play kitchen, a selection of bikes, trikes, hoppers, rockers, buggies, a chalk board, and picnic tables available for children's play.
- A buddy bench, a lidded sand unit with shovels and sieves, a basketball hoop was also provided.
- The children also had opportunities for planting and sowing with the provision of two large planting areas.
- Direct access was provided from the playrooms on the ground floor to the outdoor play areas.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The service had a healthy eating policy.
- From 8.30hrs to 9.00hrs, the service provided breakfast for any child who was hungry.
- At 11.00hrs, the children had their snack of fruit pieces, yogurt, crackers, sandwiches, and wraps, provided by parents and guardians.
- At 12.15hrs, the children had beef casserole with potatoes and vegetables which was cooked on site.
- At 14.40hrs, the children were offered rice cakes, crackers, yogurts, waffles, or spaghetti, provided by the service.
- The premise has its own kitchen. The service ensures that the meals are prepared, stored and cooked on site as per food safety management system based on the principles of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).

- The children attending the service on a full day care and part time basis were offered had two meals and snacks. The registered provider advised that the staff ensured that each meal snack had two food groups and each meal / snack was no more than three hours apart. The registered provider advised that there was a supply of food in the kitchen, for any child requiring additional food.
- The crockery, plates and drinking utensils were suitable for the age and stages of development.
- A drinks shelf was available in each playroom to allow the children the opportunity to 'self-serve' their drinks.
- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in designated fridges in the playroom, ECCE Room 1 and ECCE Room 2.

## 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:

- There was a buzzer access system, into the main entrance front door.
- The external outdoor play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all of the children, attending the pre-school.
- The playroom temperatures were thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperatures were maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Windows had restrictive access devices as a safety precaution.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.

- There was a documented risk assessment system for the indoor and outdoor play areas, for checking that toys and equipment were not broken, in a clean condition and maintained in a good state of repair.
- The registered providers clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.
- There were no pits or ponds in the outdoor area to cause any risk to the pre-school child.

### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- During the inspection, the children were assisted and encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after nappy changing, after toileting, after using a tissue, and after playing outdoors.
- There was a designated nappy changing area with a designated wash hand basin. On the day of inspection, fifteen children wore nappies. These children were changed in a timely manner, on a regular basis. Staff involved in nappy changing wore a disposable apron and gloves.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Staff advised that currently no child used a soother.
- A refrigerator was provided in the kitchen, the playroom, ECCE Room 1 and ECCCE room 2, for the storage of perishable foods.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows and doors left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- The registered provider had cleaning records for the materials, equipment, and furnishings.

### Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection, one child was on prescribed medication. Through discussion with the inspector the staff demonstrated that they were aware of the correct procedures for the storage and administration of medicines.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children were observed sleeping on demand following cues / signs of tiredness. At 13.40hrs five children from the playroom were observed sleeping in cots and stackable beds were available for an older child to sleep if required. The inspector observed that staff stayed in the sleep room to settle the children to sleep, and 10-minute sleep checks were carried out by the staff and recorded.
- The children in the playroom, ECCE rooms 1,2 and 3 had a relaxation/chill out area available if a child wanted to opt out of an activity/rest if he/she chose to.

- A thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and therefore taking remedial action when temperatures were above 20 °C and below 16 °C.
- All linen provided was clean, dry, and stored in labelled containers.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection at 15.17hrs, there was a temperature reading of 51.1°C, from the warm water tap at the wash hand basin, in the nappy changing area used by the children from the playroom. This water temperature was above the recommended 43°C upper safety limit to prevent potential risk of scalding.
2. On the day of inspection, the door into the kitchen, the storage/utility area, the staff toilet, and the designated staff area had no system of security and or were left open and thereby accessible to the children.
3. In the playroom, there was an electric phone cable trailing and not secured which could pose a safety concern.
4. A lath of wood on one section of the fence in the outdoor area was broken and could pose a potential safety concern.

#### Infection Control:

5. The children's lunch bags were stored on a storage trolley in the ECCE room3 with a recorded air temperature of 19.6 °C which is in excess of the recommended safe temperature below 5 °C.
6. In the playroom one of the highchairs was ripped / torn thereby preventing effective cleaning.
7. In the playroom a dolls bunkbed had a cardboard base which could prove difficult to clean effectively.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On 1<sup>st</sup> ,21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the registered providers advised

#### General Safety:

#### Corrective action

1. A professional plumber had been contacted and was on site on 26<sup>th</sup> of October, to investigate and rectify the water temperature readings.
2. All doors have been fitted with high level latches which are inaccessible to the children.
3. A corner high shelf inaccessible to the children was installed. The phone is now on that shelf which prevents the wire from trailing.
4. Two laths of wood have been replaced on a section of the wooden fence in the outdoor play area.

### **Infection Control:**

5. All perishable goods are removed from the lunch bags of the children in ECCE 3 and are placed on a tray in the staff room fridge.
6. The highchair was removed immediately and replaced.
7. The dolls bunkbed was removed from the playroom until the cardboard base can be replaced.

### **Preventive action**

1. We will check the water temperature daily to make sure it does not exceed the recommended temperature.
2. We will ensure that latches are used and they are checked regularly. This has now been included in our daily cleaning/safety checks.
3. We will check the rooms daily to make sure there is no trailing wires this has now been included in our daily cleaning/safety checks.
4. We will ensure that all wood is maintained in good condition. This has now been included on our daily check list.

### **Infection control**

5. We will ensure that all perishables are stored in the fridge.
6. We will check highchairs daily as part of our cleaning checklist to ensure they are in good condition.
7. We will ensure all surfaces are readily cleanable.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic and documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate of

### **General Safety:**

1. The reduced water temperature.
2. The latches fitted on the door into the kitchen, the storage/utility area, the staff toilet, and the designated staff area.
3. The newly fitted corner shelf inaccessible to the children.
4. The repaired laths of wood on one section of the fence in the outdoor area.

### **Infection control:**

5. Perishable foods stored in the refrigerator.
6. The replaced highchair.
7. The dolls bunkbed removed from the playroom.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

## 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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service. Seven staff members had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a) There were first aid boxes downstairs and one first aid box upstairs with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b)The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (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) A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The service's insurance with an expiry date 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 was for 45 children and included the following -

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

(a) From a visual inspection the premises were of sound and stable structure.

The service's exterior walls, roof and foundation appeared to be structurally sound, weather/water-tight, to ensure protection from the weather elements.

The interior floors, walls and ceilings appeared to be well finished, with no evidence of mould.

(b) Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours.

Electrical sockets were safe.

Floor coverings were secure and non-slip.

(c) There was natural lighting from the windows in the outer walls, in each playroom.

The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

(d) The service had a cleaning schedule.

(e) There was two designated nappy changing areas in the sanitary accommodation on the ground floor.

There were four toilets and four wash hand basins for the children.

Designated staff facilities were provided.

### Non-Compliance Information

(e) There was an insufficient number of wash hand basins in the nappy changing area on the ground floor. The regulation requires that one nappy changing unit/mat and one wash hand basin is provided for every eleven children in nappies.

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

On 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2023 the registered providers submitted a written response to advise:

### **Corrective Action**

(e) The landlord has been contacted and has agreed to the installation of second sink in nappy changing area. We are waiting for the plumber who has been contacted and has agreed to carry out the necessary work for us. Photographic evidence will be submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate once complete.

### **Preventive action**

We will ensure that we have suitable ratio of sinks as per regulations.

### **Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the action taken.

The registered provider has committed to submit the photographic evidence to the office of the early years' inspectorate when complete.