

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>Not TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LD018			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	ABC Childcare Stonepark			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Number 9, The Rocks, Stonepark, Longford, Co. Longford			
<b>Eircode:</b>	N39 X579			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Collette Brennan			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/04/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	45	PM	35
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Year's Inspectorate, TUSLA, Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A. Kennedy & H. Heagney			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors			

### 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

This privately operated pre-school was established in 1998. The service offers full day care and part time care provision from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs, for children aged between 0 to 6 years, from Monday to Friday. Additionally, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes is offered. The service also operates a breakfast club and afterschool programme for school aged children. The service currently caters for a maximum number of 50 children, at any one time. There are five playrooms, the Baby room, the Toddler room, and the Senior Toddler room are on the ground floor, while the Montessori room and ECCE 3 room are on the first floor. There is a building in the outdoor area, named the 'blue shed / art room' used by the school aged children. There is a designated kitchen where the main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a sleep room with seven cots available for younger children requiring sleep provision. Additionally, there are eight stackable beds, for older children's sleep provision. There are outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises. The service statement of purpose advises a child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on Montessori and emerging interests is provided.

### Staffing

The registered provider is supernumerary and not on the premises daily. There is a named person in charge and a deputy person in charge. There are twelve staff working in the premises. Ten 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. There are two staff designated to the care of the school aged children. There is a designated chef who prepares, cooks, and serves the service meals / snacks.

### 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 announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety, 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 inspectors wish 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.*

*(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 deputize in the service.

(b)

The person in charge and on the premises when the early years inspectors 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.

(2)(a) & (b)

The twelve staff files were reviewed.

Twenty-four of the twenty-four, written validated references on file in respect of the twelve staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the twelve 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)

The ten 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

*(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

(2)

The person in charge ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained.

On the morning of the inspection, there were 45 children present

- 1 child under 1 year,
- 12 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 6 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 26 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were seven staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge and regional childcare manager acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection.

There was a chef designated to kitchen duties, preparing, and serving the service meals.

In the afternoon, at 14.00hrs, there were 35 children present

- 1 child under 1 year
- 12 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 4 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 18 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were seven staff directly caring for these children. Additionally, the person in charge and regional childcare manager acted as childcare relief and assisted with the administration parts of the inspection.

In the afternoon there were 19 children were attending the school aged programme who were cared for by two designated staff members.

(8)(a)

The registered provider ensured that there were always two staff on the premises while the service was operating.

### 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.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

*(5) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child attends the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g) &(i)

A sample of nineteen children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The nineteen random children's records contained the following:

The name and date of birth of the child.

The date on which the child first attended the service.

The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).

The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.

Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.

The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.

(4)&(5)

The person in charge advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that the pre-school had a system to allow all relevant children's records were kept for 2 years, from the date a child stops attending the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(h)

Nine of the nineteen records examined had no details of any immunisations that the child has had.

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

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023, the area manager advised of the following -

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

Parents were immediately contacted and asked to provide a copy of their child's immunisations. Our enrolment form has been updated to make a note to parents to inform them that evidence of immunisations must be attached to completed enrolment forms.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

A screenshot regarding request to parents and guardians and a photograph of nine immunisation records were submitted to the early years' inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 15 has been adequately addressed.

### 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.
- Twenty-one children from the Baby room, Toddler rooms, and Senior Toddler room who wore nappies were changed in a sensitive and timely manner, on a regular basis.
- Children 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 could move about freely and explore their environment. The children were observed at free play, stacking, at artwork, dancing to action songs / nursery rhymes and at messy play.  
The staff read stories and children questioned the characters and gave their views. The staff used visual aids and probed with questions such as 'who is this?', 'how many are there?', and 'where is that?'. The staff acknowledged a child's achievements, and the children were observed having fun.  
In the outdoor area, the children played on swings, playing in the outdoor mud kitchens, riding on tractors/ bicycles, chasing, running, and playing catch.
- 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.

- Parents/guardians signed a parental agreement form and received a parent handbook with the service ethos, daily routines, strategies for supporting the children and the updated policies, procedures, response plans.
- On speaking with the staff, the inspectors were 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 and via text messages, by phone calls, instant messaging application and by email.
- The younger children had individual my child record communication books advising of the child's likes, interests, needs and preferences. The records also included food and sleep provision, nappy changes, and any individual childcare needs. These records were given to parents and guardians daily.
- The staff collated planning and observational assessments. Prompt guide questions for new themes included why are we doing this? what are we going to do? what enhancements from previous work? what equipment resources do we need? what will be completed? what new learning will take place? And there were links to song story and the rhyme of the week, followed by 'our evaluation'.
- The staff created individual learning journals / profile books for each child, showing the themes, experiences, and activities engaged in, along with photographs. The themes to date included all about me, happy birthday, finger family, traffic lights, family tree, playing in the snow, Christmas, Pancake Tuesday, healthy eating, what do you like to eat, my house, art, transport/ road safety, beep beep day, Chinese lanterns, the farm, St Bridget's day, trick or treat, science week, the toy show, nativity play, thanksgiving, sensory week, Valentines, world book day, St Patrick's day and Easter.

- 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 inspectors 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 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day.
- (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 Playrooms

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.

### Baby room

Materials and items included a matted area with a wall mounted mirror, a ball pool with a selection of balls, sound and effect toys, an activity car, a variety of construction blocks, an activity table, a selection of age and developmentally appropriate books and soft toys.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials including a family wall, happy birthday, and a sensorial board with a variety of textures to stimulate the senses.

### Toddler room

Materials and items included dress up clothing, a home area with utensils and food items, dolls and accessories. There were zoo / farm animals, transport vehicles, shape sorters, jigsaws of varying levels of difficulty, flash cards, a selection of books, construction blocks and a selection of art craft materials. There was a large floor mat provided for circle time activities.

Displayed on the walls were visual aids, posters and educational materials including the children's artwork, 'what have we been up to today', a family tree, 'all about me' and a buzzing birthday chart.

### Senior Toddler room

Materials and items included a work bench with a selection of tools, a garage, transport vehicles, cars, and trucks. There were wooden construction blocks, jigsaws, shape sorters, a doctor's kit, and a selection of dress up clothing and accessories. There was a play tent and a quiet area with a selection of age-appropriate books. There were art and craft materials including chalk, crayons, brushes, sponges, glitter, paint, playdough accessories and paper. Displayed on the walls were educational posters and visual aids, including a birthday chart, the children's artwork on bugs and insects, 'all about me' and a family wall.

### Montessori room

Materials and items included dress up clothing, dolls, prams, hair dressing items, and massage brushes. There were connectors, links, pins, buttons, stickle bricks, pegs, threading materials, zips, insets, puzzles, and games. There were trays with sand, sieves, scoops, brushes, spoons, and containers. There were stacking, construction and hammering items. There were tracks, dressing frames, wooden rainbows, ocean, zoo, and farm animals. There were coloured shapes, telephones, transport vehicles, cups, and utensils. There were small world items, timers, counters, dolls, action figures and dolls clothing. There were paints, scissors, glue, paper, bibs, and various art and craft materials.

Displayed on the walls were educational posters and visual aids including 'all about me', birds, shapes, how I feel, I love ..., St Patrick's day, some bunny loves you, and months of the year. There were displays on manners, seasons, numbers, days of the week, the weather, today is, a worry board and there was a height measure.

### ECCE 3 room

Materials and items included books, stationary, pins, pin boards, blocks, links, connectors, pegs, buttons, and shapes. There were art and craft materials including scissors, playdough, glue, paper, crayons, pencils, pipe cleaners and brushes. There were musical instruments, insets, puzzles, games, construction and stacking materials. There were threading materials, dressing frames, dinosaurs, animals, transport vehicles and tracks. There were hairdressing items, houses, dolls, and action figures.

Displayed on the walls were educational posters and visual aids including happy birthday, 'all about me', the lifecycle of the frog, who is here today, days of the week, and today's helping hand.

(3)(a)

### Outdoor areas

The equipment and materials available provided children with play, movement and exploration opportunities that were exclusive to the outdoors. The outdoor play areas were divided by fencing and gates.

The two outdoor areas to the rear of the premises were divided by fencing and gates, covered with tarmacadam which had painted symbols / numbers. There was a market with seating, a hospital with a chair and phone. There was a house with dolls, soft toys, and household items (including an ironing board, containers, and cartons). There were push cars, bicycles, scooters, and rockers stored in a garage (with a car wash). There was an activity centre with climbing frame, steps, swings, and a house/ vantage point. There were various types of swings on a metal shaped frame. There were lidded basins with wooden shapes. There was a wooden boat and a goal post.

There was an all-weather sheltered area with two picnic tables, tables, bench seating, an activity table with blocks, a sand unit with a lid, storage units, boxes, and a six-seater buggy. There was a mounted blackboard.

There was a separate fenced off outdoor area to the side of the premises, which had impact absorbing matting surface and direct access from the Baby room. Materials and items in this area included rockers, chairs, tables, slides, activity centres, push cars and kitchens.

There was also a wooden storage shed with transport vehicles, equipment, and resources, that staff advised were rotated on a seasonal interest basis.

### 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 a child gaining unsupervised access and unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured by fencing and gates so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- The door into the kitchen, staff toilets, storage areas and staff room had a system of security.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were intact safety straps as per manufacturer’s instructions, on the highchairs in the Baby room.
- There was frosting on glass of the double doors and on the nappy changing viewing panels to ensure a child’s safety and dignity.
- Blinds had fastener devices as a safety measure preventing any potential hazard access.

- The heating system was thermostatically controlled, to ensure the temperature was maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- The water was thermostatically controlled with a temperature reading of 32°C and 34.7°C, on the day of inspection.
- Documented risk assessments for the playrooms and outdoor play areas were available for review.
- Cleaning products were stored out of child reach within each of the playrooms.

### Infection Control:

- Staff prompted and supervised the children to wash their hands before eating and following nappy changing / toileting, messy play, and outdoor play.
- Adequate liquid soap and paper towels were available at the wash hand basins in the sanitary areas and the playroom wash hand basins.
- There were two designated nappy changing areas. The nappy mats were intact. The children's barrier creams were individually labelled. There was an airtight sealable foot operated lidded bin for the disposal of nappies in each of the two nappy changing areas. Staff involved in the serving of food, wore disposal aprons when nappy changing.
- The toys and play equipment were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- A cleaning and disinfection schedule was available in the service. There were suitable cleaning products available in the service. The inspectors noted high contact areas, were cleaned regularly, as per best practice guidance. The outdoor play equipment was cleaned prior to/ after a child's use, with documented records maintained. Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in each of the playrooms.
- There were foot pedaled lidded bins in the sanitary areas and playrooms.

### Administration of Medication:

- On the day of inspection, there were no medication administered to any child on the premises.
- The staff demonstrated to the inspectors, their knowledge of best practice with regards to the safe storage and administration of medication, should it be required.

### Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room with seven cots for younger children's sleep provision. Eight stackable beds were available for older children requiring sleep if required. On the day of inspection, children were observed sleeping on demand.

- The sleep policy detailed the correct temperature, lighting, ventilation, space between cots and child safety requirements.
- The inspectors observed and documentary evidence indicated that the staff physically checked sleeping children every 10 minutes. The service kept documented sleep records. Records for sleeping children included a record of the room temperature and the position, colour and breathing of the child (as per the safe sleep for under 2's best practice guidelines for childcare services policy) and the signature of the staff member who checks the sleeping child.
- A digital probe 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.
- A supply of clean linen was available for each child.
- Age /tog appropriate sleeping bags and or cellular blankets, that allow air to circulate were used for sleeping children under 2 years of age.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There was evidence of wood rot on the fencing adjacent to the main entrance gate into the outdoor area. A replaced wooden lattice panel was unpainted. An additional wooden lattice panel was broken on the fencing between the Baby and adjacent outdoor play area. Sections of the sides of the base decking were frayed, with evidence of rot, requiring maintenance / repair. The paint work on the general fencing showed evidence of flaking. This was noted on the previous inspection 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.
2. The base of the goal post was not anchored and there was a tear in the goal post netting resulting in a hole resulting in a potential safety risk. This was noted on the previous inspection 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.
3. Nine 'straps' were absent from the car wash resulting in a protruding wooden lattice, posing a potential risk.
4. There was an unfinished uneven area between the newly plastered wall and newly painted mural fence.
5. There was insufficient impact absorbing matting under the newly installed swings that were attached to the metal frame unit.
6. In the all-weathered outdoor sheltered area  

there were five concrete blocks under the mounted blackboard posing a safety risk,  
 there was an upside-down sink and sink unit inappropriately stored and accessible to the children,  
 the back of a white shelving unit (shop) was warped and requiring replacement repair.

7. The designated storage area for adult coats and belongings was inappropriate. On the day of inspection adult coats / belongings were hanging up inside the main entrance door potentially accessible to the children.
8. In the Toddler room, an electric cable was trailing in a press of the home area potentially accessible to the children and posing a safety concern.

### Infection Control:

9. Dress up and children's clothing were inappropriately stored in the sanitary area adjacent to the ECCE 3 room, which could pose a potential risk of cross infection. This was noted on the previous inspection 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.
10. There was a variance to best practice for the sterilising of children's soothers. On the morning of the inspection, the inspectors noted three exposed soothers in the sleep room cots. A staff member advised that they had 'omitted to remove them' from the cots the previous day.
11. In the Baby room, three highchairs were ripped / torn thereby preventing effective cleaning.

### Safe Sleep:

12. In the Montessori room the quiet rest area required further development to facilitate a child the opportunity to rest or relax. There was a hard plastic two-seater child size couch on four interconnected foam mats and two discs on the floor. Additionally, beside the sink and under to the side of the hand towel dispenser there was an inappropriate rest space. There was a press size unit with a foam mat, covered with a long curtain that posed a potential tripping hazard. The development of the quiet rest area was noted on the previous inspection 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023, the area manager advised of the following -

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. All fencing with wood rot has been replaced and painted. Broken lattice panels have been replaced and all replacement lattice panels have been painted. The decking has been covered with an all-weather heavy duty artificial grass with a new wood surrounding the entire edging. All areas with paint chipping have been sanded and repainted. A caretaker is now employed for the general maintenance and upkeep of the service outdoor areas. The caretaker has a checklist to ensure all areas are well maintained.

2. The goal post has been removed from the playground. A new goalpost is in place and anchored with furniture weights. An outdoor risk assessment is maintained in order to replace or repair any faulty equipment.
3. The wooden lattice that was used as the car wash has been removed. It is part of caretaker duties / checklist to remove any hazardous equipment/toys from the play area.
4. Extra panels were put in place beside the newly plastered wall to extend the painted mural fence. It is part of caretaker's duties / checklist to identify any areas that needs maintenance / rectify as required.
5. Impact absorbing matting has been extended under the swings. This area is now part of the outdoor risk assessment.
6. The blocks, sink and shelving unit have been removed. This area is now part of the outdoor risk assessment.
7. Adult coats are now stored in a locked cupboard, inaccessible to children. All staff have been informed to hang their coats in the new designated area/ assigned locked cupboard. The staff induction form has been updated to include staff belongings are inaccessible to children.
8. The electric cable is now inaccessible to the children (tacked and tapped over). To ensure cables and leads are inaccessible to the children this item has been added to the indoor risk assessment checklist.

### **Infection Control:**

9. The clothing in this sanitary area has been removed. All clothing to be stored appropriately.
10. The soothers are now stored in a child's individual sealed container. Staff have received training on this. There is now an updated cleaning sheet to ensure sterilisation and appropriate storage of soothers.
11. The three highchairs have been replaced, with records maintain to include suitability of equipment.

### **Safe Sleep:**

12. A new children's leather couch was purchased to enhance our rest area. The rest space beside /under the sink has been removed. Staff have received training and overview videos on best practice to ensure children have adequate rest / quiet area facilities.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

### **General Safety:**

1. Photographic evidence of the repaired fencing adjacent to the main entrance gate into the outdoor area, the painted and repaired wooden lattice panels and repaired newly cover decking area was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

2. Photographic evidence of the anchored new goal post and the outdoor risk assessment checklist were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence that the wooden lattice that was used as the car wash has been removed and the outdoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
4. Photographic evidence of extra panels that were put in place beside the newly plastered wall to extend the painted mural fence and the outdoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
5. Photographic evidence of the extended impact absorbing matting under the swings and the outdoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
6. Photographic evidence that the blocks, sink, and shelving unit were removed, and the outdoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
7. Photographic evidence of the new storage area for adult coats / belongings and the indoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
8. Photographic evidence of the electric cable which is now inaccessible to the children (tacked and tapped over) and the indoor risk assessment checklist, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

### Infection Control:

9. Photographic evidence that the clothing from the sanitary area was removed, was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
10. Photographic evidence that the soothers are now stored in a child's individual sealed container and an updated cleaning sheet, were submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.
11. Photographic evidence of the three new highchairs, submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate

### Safe Sleep:

12. Photographic evidence of a new children's leather couch was submitted to the office of years inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The inspectors have 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. Five staff had current training in first aid for children.

(2)(a)

On the ground floor there was a wall mounted cabinet and on the first floor there was a first aid bag. The first aid cabinet and bag were safely stored, easily accessible and in a conspicuous position.

(b)

The service demonstrated that the first aid cabinet / bag, were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)

On the ground floor wall mounted cabinet, the first aid content items had past their expiry date and were out of date.

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

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023, the area manager advised of the following

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

This new first aid bag was purchased with content items in date. A staff member has been assigned to check all first aid boxes on a monthly basis.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence of first aid supplies checklist was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 have been adequately addressed.

## 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)(a)

A written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

(b)

Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022.

(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 a full day care covering 69 children and 24 school aged children 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*
- (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 appear to be structurally sound, weather-tight and water-tight to ensure protection from weather. Each interior floor, wall and ceiling appeared to be well finished with no evidence of mould.
- Drainage and septic tanks were inaccessible to children.
- (b)
- Exits were clearly identified and visible during service hours.
- Electrical sockets were safe.
- Floor coverings were secured and non-slip.
- The service had phones in each floor to facilitate parents and guardians' contact.
- (c)
- There was natural lighting from the windows on the outer walls for each playroom and the sleep room.
- The playrooms were well ventilated by means of the openable windows and doors.
- The artificial lighting provided was shatter proof.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (e)
1. In the Montessori sanitary area, the water pressure was inadequate from the tap on one wash hand basin, when the tap from the second wash hand basin was turned on. This was noted on the previous inspection 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

2. A magnet was absent from one of the two sanitary doors in the Montessori room, thus preventing effective door closure. There was a wooden shelf inappropriately stored on the Montessori sanitary room floor.

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

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023, the area manager advised of the following

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The supply valve from hot water cylinder is now fully opened to address the pressure issue. A caretaker has been employed to address such issues.
2. The magnet has been repaired to ensure effective door closure. The shelf has been removed. The cleaning sheet has been updated to highlight any maintenance issues. A care takers checklist is now in place.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of adequate wash pressure from both taps, and the caretaker's checklist were submitted to the office of early years inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence of the magnet on the sanitary door and the caretaker's checklist were submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 have been adequately addressed.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

#### Compliance Information

(1) Adequate floor space was provided in four of the playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children.

(4)

Room Names	Square Metres	Service Type	Service age range of pre-school children in the room	Schedule 6 Age Range	Clear Floor Space	Adult Child Ratios	Maximum number of children for age range	Number of children present on day of inspection
Baby Room	16.19m <sup>2</sup>	Full Day Care	6 to 18 months	0 to 1 year	3.5 square metres	1: 3	5 children	5 1 under 12months and 4
				1 to 2 years	2.8 square metres	1: 5	6 children	1-2 years FDC
Sleep Room	15.57m <sup>2</sup>	7 cots	under 2 years of age					
Toddler Room 1	33.58m <sup>2</sup>	Full Day Care	18 months to 2 years	2 to 3 years	2.35 square metres	1: 6	14 children	10 8 1-2yrs and 2 2-3yrs (2 sessional and 8 FDC)

Senior Toddler room	15.11m <sup>2</sup>	Full Day Care	2 to 3 years	2 to 3 years	2.35 square metre	1: 6	6 children	4 2-3yrs (2 sessional and 2 FDC)
Montessori room	30.34m <sup>2</sup>	Full Day Care  ECCE	2 years and 6 months to 6 years of age	2 to 3 years	2.35 square metres	1: 6	13 children	17
				3 to 6 years	2.3 square metres	1: 8	13 children	3-4yrs 2 sessional and 15 FDC
				ECCE only	1.81 square metres	1: 11	17 children	

As indicated on the table above the clear floor space requirement relates to the age range of the children attending the playroom.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)&(2)

On the day of inspection, up until 11.00hrs, in the ECCE 3 room, the adult child ratio was not adequate for the space measurement of the room. There were nine children with one adult supervising and caring for these children, however, the room measurement for ECCE 3 room (see table below) for children aged 3 to 6 years, attending the Early Childhood Care and Education with the allowable 1.81 square meters, catered for a maximum number of seven children. It is acknowledged once advised by the inspectors, the person in charge moved two children, ensuring that the space and adult child ratio requirement was adhered to.

ECCE 3 room	13.36m <sup>2</sup>	Full Day Care  ECCE	2 years and 6 months to 6 years of age	2 to 3 years	2.35 square metres	1: 6	6 children
				3 to 6 years	2.3 square metres	1: 8	6 children
				ECCE only	1.81 square metres	1: 11	7 children

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2023, the area manager advised of the following;

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

Two children were moved to a different playroom. Parents were informed and happy with this decision. The floor space requirements is now displayed outside each playroom door for future room planning.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence of the displayed space requirement at the entrance to a playroom was submitted to the office of the early years' inspectorate.

### **Summary Comment**

The inspectors have reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 30 have been adequately addressed.