

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK066
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Elmwood Community Pre School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gerald Griffin National School, Loughill, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 EK19
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Colette Moloney, Anne O'Brien
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	19/04/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	7	PM	No.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, 2 <sup>ND</sup> Floor, Henry St, Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne
<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

The service caters for children aged 2 – 6 years for 3 hours a day (09:30 – 12:30 hours), Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service is operated from a designated room at the local national school located in the village of Loughill, Co Limerick. The service comprises of one playroom room, sanitary facilities and two outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the designated person in charge and there is a second staff working directly with the children in the service on a daily basis.

The other named registered provider is the school principal of the national school.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19 and 25. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the two registered providers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

*(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 was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was working in the service at all times throughout the inspection. The other named registered provider works in the national school and was available if required.

(2) The following documents were available on file for the registered provider and staff employed in the service.

(a) References from the person's past employers and the most recent employer.

(b) References from other sources in the case of a person who had no past employers were not required.

(c) Vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 were available for the staff.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 months.

(4) The staff working directly with children held an appropriate qualification 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of the inspection there were 7 pre-school children present and 2 staff working directly with the children. The adult child ratio was correct at all times throughout the inspection.
- (3) The registered provider has ensured that the minimum adult child ratio was maintained at the service.

### 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.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,
  - (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (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.

## Compliance Information

- (1)  
A total of 8 children's enrolment forms were viewed and these records adequately detailed the particulars required in section (a)-(i).
- (3) Childrens records were open to inspection on the premises by-
- (a) A parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of their child.
  - (b) An employee.
  - (c) An authorised person.
- (4) Staff were aware that records in writing must be retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.

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

### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

- (1) *A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*
- (a) *each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

## Compliance Information

### BASIC NEEDS:

Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Parents were encouraged to provide healthy and nutritious snacks for the children attending for the three hours. Children had access to their drinks which were stored within easy reach of all children.

Sanitary accommodation was located close to the playroom and the children who were able to go to the bathroom on their own were allowed independent access and were always within hearing distance of the staff.

Assistance was offered if required.

Rest area with comfortable seating was accessible in the room. The children had regular change of environment. They spend long periods of time outdoors each morning, weather permitting.

Photographs of the daily activities are shared with the parents daily. The staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using a soft tone of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and giving each child the opportunity to express themselves.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

This sessional service was operated from a designated room within the National school and the children have access to their own sanitary facilities and outdoor play areas .

Adequate and varied play equipment including sensory play materials suited to the age and stage of development of the child were available in the service.

During the inspection the children and staff were observed to be outside for a considerable time involved in an activity named 'caring for Mother Earth' discussed at circle time. This involved the children wearing their high visibility jackets and taking a small outing out onto the green area to pick up any litter noted along their walk. The children appeared happy, content and fully engaged in their activity. There were many moments of fun and plenty of opportunities to talk about the things that children and adults should do to keep mother earth happy.

## 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 2 staff present on the day had up to date first aid response training.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box located in the playroom of the service.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and accessible to the staff if required by a child at the service.