

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK126
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Seeds Childcare Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Moyross Community Hub Moyross Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94VONP
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marian Duggan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	65	PM	42
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J Ryan
<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

This is a community service which provides sessional, part-time and full day education and care to pre-school children. It operates from 08.30hrs to 18.00hrs and is registered to cater for a maximum of 100 children aged 1-6 years.

The service operates from a purpose-built building in an urban residential area. There are five care rooms in operation namely, beetle room, bumble bee room, caterpillar room, ladybird room and butterfly room. There is a dedicated sleep room with cots for children aged less than 2 years. The service has outdoor play areas located in the premises where children have access to outdoor play equipment.

### Staffing

The service employs 26 staff. Staff working directly with the children have the required childcare qualifications that range from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national qualifications framework.

There are two staff members working in the kitchen with Hazard Analysis Critical Control points (HACCP) training. The registered provider does not work on site in the service.

### 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 and premises. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19 and 29.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

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

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

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

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*

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

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge and the deputy person in charge were available on the premises on the day of inspection.

(2) Staff files for seven new staff employed in the service since the last inspection dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

The person in charge had ensured that each employee working in the service was suitable and competent as the following documents were available on file for all staff members and had been checked on the inspection dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024.

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

(b) References were available from sources other than past employers in the case of a person who had no past employers.

(c) Vetting disclosures were received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of all staff. All Garda Vetting documentation was dated within the last three years as per the regulatory notice EYI-RN12.3 renewal of Garda vetting published by the Inspectorate in September 2023 and effective from 01 January 2024.

(d) No staff member had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months; therefore international police vetting documentation was not required.

(4) All staff had childcare qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national qualifications framework.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(2) The minimum ratio of staff to children was maintained, and an adequate number of staff were present.

On 14 April 2025, there were 22 staff working directly with 65 pre-school children in the morning and there were 14 staff working directly with 42 pre-school children in the afternoon.

The following demonstrated the number of children and staff present on 14 April 2025:

- Beetle Room - There were 8 children (1-2 years) and 3 staff present.
- Bumble Bee Room - There were 12 children (2-3 years) and 5 staff present.
- Caterpillar Room - There were 18 children (1.5-2.5 years) and 5 staff present.
- Ladybird Room - There were 13 children (3-4 years) and 5 staff present.
- Butterfly Room - There were 14 children (4 years) and 4 staff present.

Designated staff were appointed for cooking, preparation of meals and administrative duties.

### 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

##### **(1)(a) BASIC NEEDS**

The healthy eating policy of the service was available, which supported children and parents to choose healthy foods. Drinking water was available throughout the day if a child was thirsty and needed a drink.

The children toileted independently, with assistance given to those who needed it. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times during the day, such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation area with a supply of hot and cold running water, paper towels and liquid antibacterial soap available. To support personal cleanliness and prevent cross infection, signs were on display to demonstrate the correct coughing technique to be used by the children.

The children could rest and relax as desired in the designated library/quiet areas in each room. There was a designated sensory room downstairs in the hallway where staff spent some quiet time with a child if required.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement within each room, and play activities were child lead for the most part. Outdoor play was supported and encouraged in each room and suitable clothing was available for children to play outdoors in poor weather conditions.

Children were encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow. The adults modelled positive behaviour for the children and the children were praised for their good behaviour.

Sensory play materials such as sand, paint, water and rice were in use on the day.

##### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN**

Staff were observed to be kind, caring and patient in all their interactions with the children. Each child was treated as an individual and had their likes, abilities and natural tendencies understood and respected.

Children could form and maintain secure relationships with the adults through the use of the key person system.

Staff were observed to be interested in the children, listened to them and spoke to them using soft tones of voice and positive language, engaging them in conversation and gave each child the opportunity to express themselves.

Children's opinions were sought, and their decisions respected which reflected that they were valued.

Photographic evidence of activities undertaken, and art portfolios were available to share with parents and helped support a sense of working in partnership with parents.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

#### Compliance Information

(d) The ladybird room and the butterfly room had been cleaned thoroughly by a cleaning company following the last inspection of the service on 3 December 2024. This company have been booked to clean these rooms again in May 2025.

The daily cleaning checklists were signed by the cleaning staff on a daily basis and the work completed was signed off by management when they were satisfied that cleaning was up to standard.

All three outdoor play areas on the ground floor level were observed to be clean as they had been power hosed.

Weekly cleaning of the outdoor areas was completed by the general operators.

Furniture and play equipment that were in a poor state of repair were replaced.