

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK153
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Small World
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	21 Hilltop, St Patrick's Road, Limerick.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94RHYO
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sharon Collins
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	13/05/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	7	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 private sessional service was established in 2003. It operates a morning session from 09:00hrs – 12:00 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service offers a play-based curriculum from a domestic dwelling where the children have access to a preschool room, sanitary accommodation area and an outside play area.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service each day and holds a major award in early childhood care and education at level 6. The adult has engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Childcare 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 the child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,25,26 and 28.

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 registered provider and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

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

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

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

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

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

### Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise if required.
- (b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived at the service.
- (2)(a) Two written references from past employers were available and had been checked on previous inspections of the service.
- (b) Written and verified references from sources other than past employers were not required.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures dated within the last three years were available for the registered provider and the emergency contact person.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as the registered provider had not lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The registered provider held an award in early childhood care and education on the national qualifications framework.

### 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)— (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

## Compliance Information

- (1) There were 7 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 1 adult for the session.
- (3) The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection met with the minimum requirements of 1:11.
- (8)(c) A second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service was available in the event of an emergency.

## 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 children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included: sandwiches, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Children sat together around the tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. A 'helper' from the group was nominated to give out the lunches which supported children's sense of belonging and self-care.

The children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children were encouraged to use a tissue to clean their noses if required. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it.

Children enjoyed freedom of movement within the pre-school room. There was a plentiful supply of play props available to support sensorial play. The children were encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. They were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities. Learning journals/scrap books for each child with photographic evidence of activities completed were available for parent's information. Children were observed playing outdoors in the secure outdoor play facilities where a roof had been erected and allowed children spend more time outdoors.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

A play area at the rear of the facility was available where children had access to messy play activities. The door leading to the outside play area was open therefore children had the choice of playing outdoors or inside. The room was equipped with open shelving units where children could access play equipment and materials independently. Play spaces, such as the library area, home corner, construction area, small world area, arts, crafts area, dress up clothes, tabletop activities area and sand play activities were available. Each of the areas was well resourced with toys and accessories including sensory and natural materials. Children were observed to choose play materials and complete an activity independently. Defined interest areas were changed on a regular basis depending on childrens emergent interests. Children were observed playing with sand, water and bubbles in the outdoor play area. There were lots of potted plants which included tomatoes, strawberries, herbs and flowers which supported childrens value of gardening and planting and growing.

Soft seating consisting of cushions and floor mats were available in the room where children could rest and relax and have some quiet time if they choose to opt out of an activity. Good supplies of books were available which helped support language development. The walls of the rooms were decorated with posters and the children's artwork.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider held current certification in first aid for children.

(2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.

(b)The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

### 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.
- (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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place in April 2024.
- (b)The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in December 2023 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4)A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the room

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children in attendance.