

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH059
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Name of Service:	Fun Days Playschool
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Address of Service:	Old Kiltale Road, Kiltale, Dunsany, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	C15 Y103
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Name of Registered Provider:	Carol Curley
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5, The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
Title:	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).	

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Fun Days is a private service that provides sessional care and education to children aged between 2 to 6 years of age from 8.45-11.45 am Monday to Friday and 12.00-3.00pm Monday to Thursday. The service operates from a single storey purpose-built premises to the rear of the registered providers family home and consists of a care room and sanitary facilities. An enclosed outdoor area is available to the children to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs two staff to include the registered provider and deputy person in charge. On the day of inspection there were two staff members working directly with the eight children.

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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4),
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),
- Regulation 15 (1)(a)-(j), (3)(c) , Record of pre-school child,
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,
- Regulation 25 First Aid and

- Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 (1)(a)-(j), Record of pre-school child.

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

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) The staff files of the registered provider and deputy person in charge were reviewed.

(a) Two written references were available for the registered provider and two validated written references for the deputy person in charge.

(b) Not applicable as no references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence demonstrated that neither staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available the registered provider and deputy person in charge had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(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) The correct minimum adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection.

(3) There were two adults working directly with eight children aged between 2 to 5 years during the inspection.

(8)(c) Not applicable as two staff members work directly in the service with the children.

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-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The records maintained for the total number of 14 children attending the morning session were inspected and all were found to be appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3)(c) The children's records were open to inspection as requested by the inspector as an authorised person.

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

- The staff members were observed to be kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and the atmosphere in the service was warm and child centred.
- Healthy eating was promoted within the service with staff working with parents and children to encourage healthy packed lunches. Drinking water was freely available to the children throughout the session. The staff members sat with the children at snack time encouraging conversations and extending interactions.
- The children were observed using the toilet under supervision, with assistance provided by the staff member when necessary.
- Children were observed moving freely within the care room and taking a break from activities and relaxing in a rest area in the care room which was equipped with soft matting, cushions and a child sized sofa.
- The care room was well resourced with an extensive range and quantity of equipment, toys and materials to support the children's independent thinking and extend their learning and natural curiosity.
- All equipment and materials in the care room were appropriate to the age and development of the children. The furniture provided in the room was low level and age appropriate with toys and play materials accessible.
- An outdoor area was available to the rear of the service and was equipped with a sheltered area with covered sand trays, bikes, and cars. A grass area was provided to enable the children to run and play games.
- The staff members demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences, and frequently initiated conversations with the children, responded meaningfully to their verbal and non-verbal cues and provided regular praise and encouragement using a gentle tone of voice.

- An emphasis was placed on sharing and taking turns among the children and this was evidenced while the children played a hair salon game.
- Staff members were familiar with the children’s parents and extended families who could engage with staff at drop off and collection.

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 main entrance to the service and care room was closely monitored by staff who granted access by an electronically operated gate.
- The premises and outdoor play area was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The care room was observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of children’s reach.
- Low level windows and all blind cords in the care room were secured.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and bins.
Children were supported to clean their hands before lunch and after using the toilet.
- A refrigerator was available in the care room to refrigerate perishable food items from home.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facility. The care room and sanitary facility had open windows to extract any stale air.

- The outdoor sand pit was fitted with a secure lid to prevent contamination by animals and birds when not in operation.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- Staff were familiar with the service medication administration policy and records were maintained when medication was required to be given to a child while in the service. The completed records included signed parental pre consent and were also signed by the two staff members who administered the child's medication and observed the medication. No child received medication during the inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service and all fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly.
- The designated fire exit was illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection.

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 ensured that both staff members were trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification with an expiry date of 20 January 2027 and 1 February 2026.

(2)

(a) and (b) A first aid box was available in the service and suitably equipped and accessible to the adults responsible for caring for the children attending the 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 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)
- The last recorded fire drill that took place in the service was on the 6 February 2025 in the morning and afternoon session.
- (b)
- The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, the fire extinguishers were serviced on the 20 September 2024 and the smoke alarms on the 6 January 2025.
- (4)
- A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the care rooms