

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH102		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Simonstown Childcare Facility CLG		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Simonstown Childcare Facility CLG, Kingscourt Road, Navan, Co. Meath		
<b>Eircode:</b>	C15 N61X		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marie Daly		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	11/04/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	23	PM 23
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road Navan, Co Meath		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Cunningham, D Murray & S Cully		
<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

Simonstown Community Childcare is one of 10 services operated by CRAAN Community services in Co. Meath. The service is located adjacent to Simonstown GAA club. The service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care. The service caters for children aged 0 to 6 years and school aged children. The service operates from 07.45am to 18.00pm, offering a sessional ECCE service from 09.30am to 12.30pm. The service is in a purpose-built building, the ground floor rooms cater for pre-school children and the rooms on the first floor caters for school aged children. There are four care rooms downstairs, namely the Nursery room, 1-2 room, 2-3 rooms and 3-5 room. Additionally, there was a kitchen on the ground floor level and kitchenette on the first floor, nappy changing and sanitary facilities. A reception area is available in the entrance hall.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs twenty-seven staff which includes a manager, assistant manager, receptionist, and cleaner. Twenty-five staff members provided direct care to children. On the day of inspection 11 childcare staff, 2 relief staff members, manager assistant manager, 1 student, receptionist, and cleaner were present. The registered provider arrived at the service during the inspection.

### 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.

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 registered provider, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) From a review of the service file and discussion with the manager it was confirmed that three new staff members had been employed in the service since the last inspection. These files were reviewed, and the following was noted.

- (a) Four validated written references were available from a past employer.
- (b) Two validated written reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the three new staff.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the three staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The three staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent

### 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.*

*(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

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the following rooms throughout the inspection:

(2) The rooms were as follows:

**The Baby Room:**

Two staff members cared for 2 children ranging in age from 7 months and 9 months, availing of full day care.

**The 1-2 Room:**

Two staff members cared for 3 children ranging in age from 1 to 2 years availing of the full day care.

**The 2-3 Room:**

Two staff members cared for 5 children ranging in age from 2 to 3 years all availing of full day care.

**The 3 – 5 Room:**

Two staff members cared for 8 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years, all availing of full day care.

**Pre-school Room:** Three staff members cared for 5 children ranging in age from 3 to 5 years, all availing of full day care.

Two additional relief staff members, the manager and assistant manager were also available to provider assistance in rooms as required.

(8) (a) According to the staff roster, the manager ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times

## 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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

### Compliance Information

#### Basic Care needs of the Children:

Nappy changing was carried out in a timely manner and nice interactions were noted between staff and children during nappy changing. Drinks were available to the children throughout the day. Children who required support at mealtimes received support and older children were encouraged to be independent and assistance also given where required. Children's behaviour was supported in a consistent and positive way with an emphasis on praise and encouragement. The adults supported children to be sociable in a calm and sensitive manner and demonstrated a good knowledge of individual personalities.

#### Supporting Relationships around the Children:

In all care rooms the staff sat on the floor or sat beside children at the tables to assist them to carry out activities. Children moved about the rooms freely engaging in activities.

During activities children were offered choices and sought out the staff members for praise, encouragement, and reassurance. Language development was facilitated through reading, songs and conversation.

Children who became upset were nurtured and cuddled until they settled. Staff members sat with children at mealtimes with lots of conversation. Children sat at the tables which facilitated children to engage with each other at mealtimes. Children were observed enjoying outdoor play with their peers on the day of inspection.

### 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-
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.
- (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)(b) One cot room was available in the Baby Room with 5 cots. Two cot rooms were available for the 1-2 Room with 9 cots for children under 2 years who required sleep. The 2-3 Room used stackable beds for the children requiring sleep over 2 years of age. Within the care rooms there were soft furnishings, mats and cushions for children to take a break from activities and rest if needed.
- (3)(a) The outdoor space was located to the rear of the premises. The area was divided into 2 spaces by wooden fencing. The surface areas consisted of soft matting, secured by railings with a coded gate.

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

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The care rooms had defined areas of interest with the exception of the non-compliances. These areas contained storage areas containing puzzles, trucks, animals and cars. Areas included library areas beside rest areas, sensory trays, wooden puzzles and building blocks, home areas, art and craft materials, musical instruments, dolls, and construction toys.

The outdoor area had tyres, play cars, push along toys, scooters, wooden shed with a sand pit, plastic playhouse, sand tray, kitchen area, wooden climbing frame with a slide for energetic play, small slides and rockers. A partially sheltered area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather. The service also has access to an all-weather pitch located on the grounds of the service.

## Non-Compliance Information

1. The Baby room had limited sensory or natural materials available for the children.
2. The 1-2 Room had limited play materials available e.g., the role play area had a mat and mirror and container with a denim jacket and 2 dolls. The library area had books in a tattered and torn cardboard box, most of the books available were not suitable for this age group. The sand tray had minuscule amount of sand.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

#### Corrective Action

1. The baby room has been given a complete makeover and there is a lot of sensory materials available in the room.
2. The 1-2 room has had a complete makeover and has all new equipment plus a new sand box in the room.

#### Preventive Action

1. The two staff members in the room to ensure that sensory and natural materials are always available.
2. The staff in the room must ensure that all the equipment is available and accessible for the children in the room and make sure there is always sand in the sand box.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the Baby room and the 1-2 room with sensory and natural materials added to the environment was submitted to the Inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance's in Regulation 21.

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

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a 4-week menu plan with a variety of dishes ranging from vegetarian, meat and poultry freshly prepared in the service. All food is provided by the service except for the children attending on a sessional basis who bring their own lunch. There was evidence of a good supply of fresh fruit and vegetables in the kitchen store in addition to a supply of canned and dried foods.

Dinner served on the day was chicken pasta bake. Water was available to the children.

### 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 following safety measures were in place on the day of inspection:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main door to the service was secured with a buzzer system and the outdoor space was enclosed with fencing and walls with a secure side gate. These security measures ensured that a child did not exit unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and outdoor spaces.
- All play materials were placed on stable based shelving units. Play materials and equipment were observed to be safe and suitable for the developmental age of the pre-school children present in the service.
- The emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- An indoor and outdoor risk assessment was conducted on a daily basis.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were supported with handwashing following outdoor play and before meals.
- Cleaning schedules were available.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication administered had relevant documentation available and parental consent.

### Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep practices were observed in the service as demonstrated by the following examples:

- A thermometer was available in the cot rooms to ensure the temperature of the rooms was maintained between 16 to 20°C while children were sleeping.
- A sleep log on each child was recorded at 10 minutes intervals. A staff member remained with the children over 2 years with an additional staff member available to these rooms to provide assistance if required.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the Baby Room cots were not 50cms apart to limit the spread of infections.
2. The following posed a trip hazard:
  - Wires from listening devices, extension leads and fans were lying on the floor in the cot rooms.
  - In the 3 to 5 years room there was a trailing flex from an Air Humidifier unit.
  - In the Pre-school room there was a trailing flex from a sensory fish lamp.

#### Infection Control:

Baby Room and 1-2 Room:

3. Painting on the walls in the nappy changing area in the baby room and 1-2 room was peeling which was therefore difficult to clean effectively.
4. All creams in the nappy changing area were not labelled by name.
5. Sinks in the nappy changing area had debris and not clean.
6. One cot in the 1-2 cot room had an ill-fitting mattress.
7. Children were not always assisted to wash hands following nappy change.
8. Cleaning lists were not up to date as evidence of staining on doors in the nappy changing area and on the walls were signed as carried out, but surfaces were not clean enough.

In the 2-3 Room:

9. The lid on the nappy changing bin was broken.
10. In the Pre-school room play equipment was stored in net bags in the sanitary area.

In the 3 to 5 Room:

11. The surface area of the round table and the cabinet which held the children's drinks inside the door was worn and chipped leaving no smooth surface for adequate cleaning.

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

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

##### Corrective Action

1. There were five cots in the Nursery sleep room, and one was removed on of the cots to ensure there is 50cm between each cot.
2. All wires and leads that were on the floor of the Nursery sleep room have been removed and have been attached to the wall and a flex cover so they are out of harm's way.  
In the 3-5 room we have removed the Air humidifier from the room.  
In the pre-school the flex from the fish lamp has been boxed in so there are no trailing wires.

##### Preventive Action

1. A cot was removed from the sleep room.  
Photographic evidence provided.
2. All wires and training flexes have been boxed in or removed from the room.  
Photographic evidence provided.

##### Infection Control:

##### Corrective Action

3. The Nappy room between Nursery and 1-2 room has been painted both walls and doors so there is no problem cleaning.
4. All the creams have been labelled with the child's name.
5. The sinks are clean and there is no debris in or around them.
6. A new mattress was purchased for the cot in the 1-2 room.
7. The children's hands are always washed after a nappy change.
8. Cleaning lists are checked daily.
9. We have ordered new Nappy bins for the rooms.
10. The net bags we use to dry equipment form the rooms will never be in the sanitary area again.
11. The round table and the drinks cabinet in the 3-5 rooms have been removed.

## Preventive Action

3. Now that the nappy room has been painted it is much easier to keep clean.
4. All creams are labelled on arrival to the room.
5. Up to date cleaning records are maintained which includes the sinks.
6. Mattresses are checked daily.
7. Support and Supervision was revisited where we reiterated our policy on Nappy Changing, Infection Control, Hand Washing, and Cleanliness and Hygiene.
8. Cleaning lists are checked daily.
9. New nappy bins were ordered for the rooms.
10. The net bags to dry equipment from the rooms will never be in the sanitary area again.
11. The round table and the cabinet which held the children's drinks in the 3-5 rooms have been removed.

## Supporting documentation submitted

### General Safety:

Photographic evidence of the cot room with 50cms between cots and all training flexes secured in the 3-5 room and the preschool room was submitted to the inspectorate.

### Infection Control:

Photographic evidence of the painting in the baby room and the 1-2 room was submitted. Also, photographic evidence of creams labelled by name, sink area cleaned, a new mattress, the cleaning list and the proof of purchase of new bins was received by the Inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider has been reviewed and has addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

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

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

(3) (a) All persons are approved by an employee prior to entry to the pre-school.

(b) Visitors were announced and approved by an authorised staff member on arrival, the visitors' details are entered into the visitors' book.

### 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 had up to date First Aid Responders course and was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a) and (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and safely stored in the premises.

### 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 fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 10/03/2023.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced in August 2022. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 01/02/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid insurance certificate for 95 preschool children with an expiry date of 27/03/2024.