

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH128
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Longwood Pre-School on the Green
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Old National School, Longwood, Co. Meath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A83 H276
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann Kerrigan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional/Part-time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/09/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	37	PM	0
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<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>	D. Murray
<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

Longwood Pre-school on the Green has operated at its present location since 2018. The service provides a sessional/part-time service to children from 2 years 6 months to 6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service is situated in the old primary school in Longwood village and consists of 4 care rooms with sanitary facilities and an outdoor space which surrounds the service.

The rooms in the service were as follows:

The **Blue** room provides care for children from 2 years 6 months to 3 years 6 months and operates from 09:15am to 12:15pm

The **Red** room provides care and education to children from 3 years 7 month to school going age and operates from 9am to 1pm.

The **Yellow** room 1 facilitates school aged children.

The **Yellow** room 2 provides care for the younger age group settling in. This room was closed on the day of inspection as the children had joined the Blue room.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a designated person in charge and 4 staff members. On the day of inspection, the designated person in charge was present with 4 childcare staff. The registered provider arrived at 11:am when the inspection had commenced.

### 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 inspection 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 inspector wishes 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.*

*(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.*

*(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme.”*

### 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 inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) Twelve validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 6 staff members.

(d) Not applicable as no staff member had resided outside the jurisdictions for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Six childcare 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

(6A) Two staff member were employed under the scheme known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) On the day of inspection, the correct adult/child ratio was maintained.

- In the **Blue** room, there were 2 staff members with 15 children ranging in age from 2 years 6 months to 3 years 6 months attending the service on a sessional basis.
- In the **Red** room, there were 3 staff members with 22 children ranging in age from 3 years 7 months to school going age attending the service on a sessional/part-time basis.

(8) (a) The registered provider 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

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- The staff members in both care rooms were observed encouraging and collaborating with children in their play activities. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones when engaging with the children and showed a keen interest in what each child was doing.
- Throughout the session children had the opportunity to move about freely and explore their environment both indoors and outdoors. Children were observed engaging in tabletop activities and free play along with outdoor energetic play with lots of conversation and laughter observed.
- Children individual needs were met with adequate supervision given when using the toilet and hand washing.
- Transitions were handled smoothly with staff members giving the children ample time to complete one activity before starting the next.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- During activities children were offered choices and sought out the staff members for praise, encouragement, and reassurance. Children who were settling in were well supported with additional care and attention given as required.
- The children in the Blue room sat at their tables at snack time while the children in the Red room had their lunch outside. This activity of coming together created a positive atmosphere where children had the opportunity to interact and developing relationships especially the children new to the service.
- The children showed confidence around the staff members and appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.

## 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) Cosy areas consisting of mats and cushions were available in all rooms should a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. There were no children requiring a sleep attending the service however a sleep mat was available if required.
- (3)(a) The outdoor space was divided into 3 areas consisting of artificial grass, soft mats, cement and tarmac surfaces enclosed by walls with secure gates. A partially sheltered area permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

## 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

- All care rooms were well resourced with play materials and equipment which were laid out in interest areas which were spacious and uncluttered. The play materials and equipment incorporated natural/sensorial materials, art and crafts, a range of suitable toys and books. All play materials and equipment were easily accessible on open shelving at the children’s height which encouraged active engagement and involvement.
- The equipment in the outdoor area provided the children with the opportunity to avail of physical, challenging experiences involving gross and fine motor skills. Equipment included climbing frame, basketball stand, planting boxes and tyres, slides, climbing tunnel, kitchen area, gutters mounted to the walls for pouring, building blocks, activity trays with soil and toy cars and tractors. Additional equipment for use was stored in a shed.

## 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 children brought their own healthy lunch from home with a variety of snacks available in the service for the children staying until 1pm.

## 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:

- All cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The main gate and door to the service was secured and the outdoor space was enclosed by walls. 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.

##### Infection Control:

- The hand washing policy was implemented in practice with appropriate hand washing for staff and children at all times. A supply of liquid soap and hand paper towel was available in the children's sanitary facilities.
- The service was clean with cleaning schedules maintained on a daily basis.
- Fridges were available for the perishable items in the children's lunch boxes.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. The water at the sinks in the children's sanitary facilities was cold to touch and not adequate for effective hand washing.
2. Perishable items including meat and dairy products provided by parents/guardians for the morning snack were stored in the children's bags at room temperature rather than in a fridge. This increased the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in food poisoning.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### Infection Control:

1. The water system has been reviewed and is now operating on a timer which will be switched on before school commences. The registered provider will ensure that warm water is available in the children's sanitary facilities on a daily basis.
2. Children's lunches are now placed in a fridge. The registered provider will ensure that children's lunches containing perishable items will be refrigerated on a daily basis.

#### Summary Comment

The registered providers in the Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan has addressed the non-compliance for Regulation 23 Infection Control.

The response received has been reviewed and accepted.

### 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 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 16/06/2023 before the pre-school service for the summer.
- (b) A record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and mains powered smoke alarms on the premises. The fighting equipment was last serviced in January 2023. The mains powered smoke alarms were last serviced on the 13/01/2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.