

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MH212
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Wonderkids Limited
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	26 Elm Drive, Athlumney Wood, Navan, Co. Meath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	C15 N92E
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Nalini Revankar
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	27/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	11	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath CP23
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Cunningham
<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

Wonderkids Limited is privately owned and provides two sessional sessions daily to preschool children aged from 2 to 6 years old. The services run from 9.00am to 12 midday and afternoon session 12.30am to 15.30pm. The service caters for a maximum of 11 pre-school children at each session. The service operates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The service operates from a domestic dwelling with a separate entrance to the pre-school and consists of a care room with sanitary facilities. The service also has an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises

### Staffing

The registered provider and one staff member are employed 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/ 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, 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 inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) Staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted.

- (a) & (b) Four validated written references were available for the staff members.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for the staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was available for both staff members who had resided outside the state for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and Level 6 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) The adult/child ratio was correct;

Two adults cared for 11 children attending a sessional service (aged between 2 years 8 months to 4 years).

### 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 needs of Children:

The service had a healthy eating policy; children's snacks were observed to be nutritious and healthy. The staff members sat with the children during snack time and were attentive to their needs; conversations and interactions between the children and the adults were observed to be informative, educational, animated and fun. The children were encouraged to be independent, and they were supported by the staff members to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development including hand washing, toileting and caring for their belongings; assistance was given when needed. The staff members ensured that all children were dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Pre-school children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the playroom and all children were provided with outdoor play on the day of the inspection. A comfortable rest area was available in the playroom for the children if they wanted to take a break, rest and sit quietly. The staff members were experienced and confident looking after preschool children. There was an emphasis on praise and encouragement to promote positive behaviour and children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner.

#### Supporting relationships around children.

The children were cared for by the same adults which enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence within the service. The children were observed to be content and relaxed within the preschool room. On the day of the inspection the staff members were observed responding promptly to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. They were observed offering choices to children, using their first name, making eye contact, speaking in a positive tone to the children and facilitating age-appropriate choice. Children were encouraged to take part and afforded opportunities to make choices. There was a good balance between structured work periods and free play which promoted learning for the children in a way that enabled them to consolidate their experiences through imaginative and social play. The staff members facilitated the children in small groups to extend their play and learning. Transitions from one activity to another were well managed and the children were supported during these times. There was predictability and routine to the morning and the children responded to this very positively. Information was exchanged with the parent at the drop off and collection times. Face to face meetings can be arranged by appointment when needed. The registered provider also uses email and telephone as alternatives forms of contact if needed.

### 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 indoor and outdoor environments were child friendly and presented to encourage child led play. In the indoor playroom the interest areas included a home corner, construction area, library and reading corner, mark making /arts and crafts area, puppets, puzzles, jigsaws, bricks and blocks area, small world area. There were plenty of props to support and extend the children’s imaginative play experiences in the various interest areas.

The playroom and covered area space were equipped with low level tables and chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the pre-school 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 entrance gate to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent any pre-school child from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents.

##### Infection Control:

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Children were supervised by the staff members while handwashing to ensure that they washed their hands. Foot pedal operated bins were in place in the service to facilitate the hygienic disposal of used paper hand towel and tissues. The playroom was ventilated with open windows to allow circulation of air. The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and

hygienic condition. Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for the preschool room environments including the outside play equipment.

**Administration of Medication:**

The adults were familiar with the safe procedures in place to administer medication including temperature reducing medication to a child if the need arises.

**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**

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

**Non-Compliance Information**

(1) The service did not provide evidence that a person working in the service had up to date First Aid Responders training. It is acknowledged that a staff member has up to date paediatric first aid.

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

**Corrective and Preventive Action**

The registered provider is planning to complete the 'First Aid Responders' training course in December 2024 and will share further details once booking made, as well as course is completed, with the evidence.

Will make sure to review the First Aid Responders training course status and renewal timeframe and will arrange for refresher/renewed training course.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

The registered provider submitted evidence of enrolment for the FAR course for the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence of enrolment in the FAR course for the 30<sup>th</sup> January. Successful completion is required to ensure compliance with Regulation 25. This remains outstanding.

## 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 record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. Fire drills were carried out monthly.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) An up-to-date service record was not available for the fire extinguishers or the smoke alarms in the service.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Fire services provider was contacted who had already visited the premises on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 24, for initial checks. They will send the quotation which will be followed by actual inspection for fire extinguishers and smoke alarms. The invoice and the report will be shared once the inspection is completed.

Will review the status regularly (on annual basis) before the expiry date and will arrange for the inspection to prevent this happen again.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

The registered provider has submitted evidence of maintenance of the smoke alarms and fire extinguishers dated the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

## **Summary Comment**

The response from the registered provider has addressed the noncompliance in Regulation 26.

## **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 22 preschool children with an expiry date of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.