

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015OY041 |
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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Grovelands Childcare LTD. |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|

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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | IDA Business Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | R35 NY95 |
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|                                     |                |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Regina Bushell |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|

|                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 25/11/2024 |
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|                                   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 91 | PM | 65 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Tusla, Child and Family Agency,<br>Primary Care Centre,<br>Church Avenue,<br>Tullamore, Co. Offaly. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | K. Murphy & C. O'Connor Hughes                                                                                                   |
| <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).

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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

### Description of service

The age range of pre-school children that the service is registered to accommodate is 0 to 6 years of age. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service is located in a two-storey purpose-built premises. Eight pre-school rooms, two sleep rooms, a breakout room, a reception area, an office, a kitchen, a laundry and a staff room are provided. An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the service.

On-site parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a business and technology park on the outskirts of the town of Tullamore, County Offaly.

### Staffing

There were twenty-two adults present on 25 November 2024 including a designated person in charge, deputy designated person in charge, two support staff employed to provide assistance in the service, an administrator and the cook. The registered provider does not work directly with children and was not present 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under

- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of Child
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- Regulation 27 – Supervision

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Sunflower room (aged 0-1 years) the Primrose room (aged 1-2 years) the Willow room (aged 2 years and 8 months ECCE) and the Maple room (aged 2 years and 8 months ECCE).

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 co-operation of the 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The designated person in charge and deputy were present for the duration of the inspection.

Thirty-two staff files including the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a past employer in respect of the thirty-two staff files reviewed. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available in respect of twelve staff members who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Staff members working directly with children held qualifications at levels 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications or a letter of eligibility deemed by the Minister.

### 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 minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)

There were ninety-one children attending the service supervised directly by twenty adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are 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 children were supported to be self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development. Children were observed to enjoy choosing their own activities supported by staff in the Maple and Willow rooms.

The Sunflower and Primrose rooms were bright and spacious. The young children were observed crawling and exploring their environment at their own pace supervised by staff. Soft matting was available, toys and equipment included a ball pool, wall instruments, sensory play, musical stands and instruments.

A key person system is in operation in the service which helped to promote the emotional security for children.

There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service. Children were content with their carers and staff were familiar with each child and their personality. Staff interacted well with young children during nappy changing by making eye contact and smiling. Adults were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Good teamwork between the staff members was observed during the inspection.

During snacks and mealtimes, the staff sat with small groups of children, providing support and offering assistance as required. The young children were encouraged to self-feed as appropriate and mealtimes for these children was facilitated in line with each child's individual routine. Bibs were worn by young children to protect their clothes at

mealtimes. Soothers were stored in individually named containers. Children attending the Sunflower and Primrose rooms slept on a need's basis.

Children were dressed appropriately in coats and hats for outdoors and enjoyed the play experiences in the outdoor play area.

The service worked in partnership with parents. A handheld electronic device is used to record information relating to the children's activities and daily life in the service. An "all about me" information record was available for each child. The children's learning journals depicted children's developmental progress and activities during the year.

A range of developmentally appropriate experiences were available for all children. Areas of interest were noted in the rooms and included home areas, construction areas, arts and crafts, dress up, sensory play and small world items.

### 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-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(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)(a)

Suitable and adequate play and work equipment were provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners.

(b)

Two sleep rooms were available to facilitate the sleep needs of babies and young children. The sleep room adjacent to the primrose and sunflower rooms was equipped with seven cots. The sleep room located on the main corridor provided 50cm space between the cots. Waterproof mattresses were in place on all cots with fitted sheets and cellular blankets in use. Low level beds were available for children over two years of age to sleep. Soft furnishings provided appropriate rest facilities in the pre-school rooms for any child who wished to avail of rest and relaxation.

(3)(a)

A large outdoor play area was available for the children. A new artificial grass surface has been laid since the last inspection on 03 August 2022. Absorbent surface areas were noted at the segregated play areas located off some of the pre-school rooms. The toys and equipment included slides, toy kitchen, a tunnel, trikes and bikes, benches, table and chairs.

## 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

##### Maple and Willow Rooms

The rooms were laid out with a variety of age and stage appropriate toys and play materials including books, jigsaws, bricks, blocks, dolls, prams, arts and crafts, sensory trays and fine motor skill toys. Materials were accessible to children on low level wooden shelving and drawer units. Personal belongings and bags stored individually for each child.

##### Sunflower and Primrose Rooms

The rooms were laid out with a variety of age and stage appropriate toys and play materials including push pull toys, play blocks and musical toys. Floor mats were in place to aid and support young children when crawling and sitting. An adult chair was in place for a staff member to feed or comfort a child.

## 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 door to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. A coded system was in place for access to the service. The Inspectors signed the visitors book in the reception area of the service.

Daily checklists were available and reviewed in respect of the pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

##### Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. Cleaning schedules were available. Warm water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the pre-school rooms and the sanitary accommodation. The temperature of the water recorded at the wash hand basins was approximately 33 degrees Celsius.

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the displayed procedure.

Soothers were stored in individually labelled containers in a fridge. Feeding bottles of prepared infant formula were stored correctly in the fridge in the baby room.

Foot operated pedal bins were available in the pre-school rooms and in the associated sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste.

##### Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored correctly in the service.

##### Safe Sleep:

A record of the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children was noted in a sleep log. The sleep room temperature noted was 16 °Celsius.

##### Fire Safety:

Fire exit routes were unobstructed in the service. A fire assembly point was noted to the front of the service.

## 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)  
Five adults were qualified in first aid response (FAR). The roster indicated that FAR cover was provided during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

A first aid box was available in a prominent location in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was readily available to children in the pre-school 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 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)

There was a record of fire drills carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 29 October 2024.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced on the 13 March 2024 and 20 November 2024 respectively.

(4)

Fire evacuation procedures were noted in conspicuous locations in the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

Children were supervised by staff in the indoor and outdoor environments during the inspection.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover for the number of children attending the service and the expiry date noted was 27 March 2025.

## Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

### Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

*A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:*

*(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise*

#### Compliance Information

The service submitted a notification in respect of (d) to TUSLA on the 21 September 2024.

## Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

### Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

*A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.*

#### Compliance Information

The designated person in charge provided all information required for the inspection.