

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015OY066			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Mie World			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kilbride Gardens, Clara, Co. Offaly			
<b>Eircode:</b>	R35 FF64			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Paul Henry, Sinead Cornally			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/09/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	32	PM	34
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

The service is registered as a full day care service. The age range of children that the service is registered to accommodate is 0 to 6 years of age. The service is part of a multiple operated by independent providers.

The Early Years' Service operates out of a purpose-built two storey building. On the ground floor, five pre-school rooms, two sleep rooms, a kitchen and a reception area/office are provided. Outdoor play areas are attached to the rear and front of the service. Onsite parking and set down facilities are provided. The service is situated in a residential area in the town of Clara, County Offaly.

### Staffing

The registered providers, the cook and thirteen childcare staff were present when the inspection commenced. Additional and alternative staff came on duty throughout the day as per the service roster. The registered providers attended the closing meeting.

### 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.

## Additional Information

- An immediate action notice was issued to the registered providers on 22 September 2023 in respect of: Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment - (2) (c) Garda Vetting Disclosures.
- The registered providers provided a response on 23 September 2023 outlining the corrective actions taken.
- The response was accepted and acknowledged by Tusla on 25 September 2023.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the registered providers, 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) is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "

(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 registered providers and the named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The registered providers were present for the duration of the inspection.

Nineteen staff files were reviewed, and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

Two written validated references were available from a previous employer or a source other than a past employer in respect of seventeen staff members.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of eighteen staff members.

(d)

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

(4)

Staff members working directly with children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(6A)

One staff member present was working directly with children under the Access and Inclusion Model.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Two written validated references were not available from a previous employer or a source other than a past employer in respect of two staff members.

(2)(c)

A completed Garda Vetting disclosure was not available in respect of one adult present in the service.

*An immediate action notice was issued to the registered providers in respect of Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment - (2) (c) Garda Vetting Disclosures.*

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

Written references have been acquired for both staff members. (References included)

(2)(c)

Garda vetting has been acquired for the staff member. (Vetting included)

As a preventative measure any new staff that joins the service will have their contract presented to them by the service provider as part of their induction procedure. This will not be possible without all references and vetting which places the service provider at the end of hiring new staff. The registered provider will ensure that all files are present before contracts are provided.

#### Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective actions taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

### 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 thirty-two children attending the service supervised directly by ten adults.

Eleven children arrived from the sister sessional service which concluded at 12:00. These children availed of full day care for the remainder of the day. Additional and alternative staff came on duty throughout the day as per the service roster to meet the adult: child ratio.

(8)(a)

The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

In a sample review of ten child records the details relating to (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i) were in place.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
- (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
- (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
- (e) the facilities available;*
- (f) the opening hours and fees;*
- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

(1)

The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(h)(i) and (k).

### 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

(19)(1)(a)

It is acknowledged that the service has engaged and worked with a quality support service since the last inspection on the 1 December 2022.

There was a calm and happy atmosphere in the service. The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child, their personalities and their daily routine. Staff used individual names, maintained eye contact and sat talking with children at mealtimes. Good teamwork was observed amongst staff. Transitions were smooth with staff giving notice to children regarding changes in activities.

At 13:00 the children enjoyed their main meal of pasta bolognaise with carrots and onions served by the cook. Additional portions were offered to children as requested. Milk and water were offered with the main meal. Parents provide a healthy snack for children attending on a sessional basis. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff assisted the children as required.

Nappy changing was carried out regularly and as needed. Good communication was observed between the staff member and child during nappy changing. Children slept in a in a restful atmosphere in the baby and wobbler sleep rooms and were physically checked by a staff member every ten minutes.

Older children were encouraged to be independent as they washed their hands before snack and mealtime. Children went to the toilet independently supervised by staff. Children enjoyed play experiences indoors including free play, table- top activities and outdoor play. Babies had the opportunity for fresh air as they were brought to the outdoor play area by the staff member.

The pre-school rooms were laid out with low level tables and chairs. Materials were available to children on low level shelving that included bricks, blocks, art and craft supplies, animals, jigsaws, dolls and play kitchen utensils. A home area, rest area with books, a farm and a construction area were noted in the pre-school rooms. Children's artwork was displayed.

The child's learning journal depicting their play and work activities had commenced in operation in the pre-school room. Evidence was available to indicate that the service had commenced short-, medium- and long-term curriculum planning in line with the Early Childhood curriculum. A handheld electronic device was used to record the personal care needs of the children in respect of eating, drinking, sleeping, nappy changes and play activities and events that took place during the child's day. This information was then available to parents in real time for observation or comment.

## 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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of toys, equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

##### Infection Control:

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet.

The pre-school rooms were ventilated by natural ventilation with windows open. The sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas were ventilated by mechanical ventilation. Supplies of paper hand towel and liquid soap were available in the sanitary accommodation.

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

The nappy changing practice observed was carried out correctly.

Soothers were stored correctly in individual containers in the baby and junior toddler rooms.

##### Administration of Medication:

No medicine was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available and stored out of the reach of children.

### Safe Sleep:

A sleep log was maintained noting the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children. The baby sleep room temperature noted was 19.5 degrees Celsius. The toddler sleep room temperature noted was 18.5 degrees Celsius.

### Fire Safety:

Emergency exits were unobstructed. A designated fire assembly point was located to the side of the service.

### Outing:

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The floor mat at the home corner in the senior toddler room did not have a non-slip backing which posed a potential slip hazard.
2. The cords attached to the recently installed telephones in each of the pre-school rooms were low hanging and accessible to children which posed a potential risk of injury to a child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. A slip backing has been acquired and fitted on the floor mat in the senior toddler room. (Photograph included)
2. All telephone cords have been hung upwards out of reach of the children. (Photograph included)

As a preventative measure the maintenance person is being trained to assess to look for environmental risks. This creates a triple lock system with the supervisor providing daily inspections, the maintenance person has been given the responsibility to highlight any risks, log and fix them. The service provider is doing full QRF checks during the three terms when the service is closed (Christmas, Easter, Summer). The service providers will also perform less detailed checks throughout the year.

### Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective actions taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

## 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)  
Three staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)  
A first aid box was available in an accessible and conspicuous location on the main corridor on the ground floor.

(b)  
A first aid box was accessible 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)

A written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 7 August 2023.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment in the premises were serviced on the 12 May 2023 and the smoke alarms in the premises were serviced on the 7 June 2023.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

### 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. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2024.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a)  
The premises is a two-storey purpose-built facility and visually appeared to be stable in structure.
- (b)  
The main entrance door to the service was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The reception area was staffed for the duration of the inspection. A coded system is in place for entry to the pre-school rooms. The inspectors signed the visitor book on arrival at the service.
- (c)  
Openable windows provide both natural light and ventilation in the pre-school rooms. The light fittings were covered and fully operational to provide adequate artificial light to the rooms and sanitary accommodation. The environmental temperature recorded in the pre-school rooms was 21.9 degrees Celsius.
- (d)  
The premises was visually clean with the exception of the non-compliance outlined below. Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. Pest control records were available and dated 16 September 2023.
- (e)  
Appropriate nappy changing facilities and sanitary accommodation were available in the premises. Thermostatically controlled hot water was available in all rooms with the exception of the non-compliance outlined below.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. The top bar of a cot in the baby sleep room easily came apart from the side bar and required securing into place.
  2. The conduits that secured cables in the wobbler sleep room were not fully encased and required repair.
  3. In the nappy changing area attached to the junior toddler room the sliding bolt on a cupboard door within was not functioning and required repair.
  4. The ventilation grids in the sanitary accommodation attached to the two toddler rooms and the pre-school room were dusty with a build up of physical debris which required cleaning.
  5. The two rest chairs in the pre-school room were heavily stained and required recovering or replacement.

(e)  
Thermostatically controlled hot water was not available in the sanitary accommodation in the pre-school and midi rooms.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
1. The top bar of the cot has been glued back in place. All other cots were thoroughly inspected for similar faults. (Photograph included)
  2. The conduits have been replaced. (Photograph included)
  3. The receiver for the sliding bolt has been replaced and the locking mechanism is fully functioning. (Photograph included)
  4. The ventilation grids have been cleaned. (Photograph included)
  5. The chairs have been sent away to be refurbished with a washable covering. Alternative seating has been added while we wait for the chairs to be returned. (Photograph included)

(e)  
The hot water in the three toilets in question has been adjusted at the sinks to match the water temperatures of those three sinks to match the temperatures of the other sinks in the setting. (Professional verification included)

As a preventative measure the maintenance person for the service has been given more responsibilities and more scope to raise issues with management. Another layer of checks to the existing role of the supervisor, management, and service provider have been put in place.

## Summary Comment

In respect of the corrective actions taken documentary evidence was submitted to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate, reviewed by the Early Years Inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.