

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015TY157		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Treasure Island Childcare Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	16 Kickham Street, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary		
<b>Eircode:</b>	E32 FV40		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sheila Power		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/08/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM 16
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Ferryhouse, Clonmel, Tipperary.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Cullen		
<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

Treasure Island Childcare Ltd. is a full day care community early years service, located on the ground floor of a community resource centre in the town in Carrick-on-Suir in county Tipperary. The service is presently open from Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:30pm catering for children aged 2 to 6 years of age.

The premises was previously a terraced house specifically redesigned for a childcare centre with an extension to the rear of the building. The service consists of four early years rooms, a sleep room, changing room and a laundry room. A staff office and full catering kitchen are on the first floor of the premises. The outdoor play areas are adjacent to the early years rooms.

### Staffing

The service employs a manager and an assistant manager who are designated persons in charge. A further eight early year staff are employed by the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. Staff working directly with children hold qualifications ranging from Level 5 to 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 17, 25 and 26. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and 19. As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms toddler and playschool.

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 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
- (c) these Regulations.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)(c) There was a designated person in charge on the day of inspection and a named person was available to deputise as required. An organisational chart provided details of the management and reporting structures within the service. Information was available detailing the role of each staff member and specific responsibilities such as fire officer, designated liaison person, health and safety officer and first aid officer.

Documentation was reviewed for the 10 staff members employed by the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two validated references were available for each staff member from either a past employer, or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting was available on file for each staff member.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

(4) A certificate of qualification was available on file demonstrating that each of the ten staff members held a qualification at the minimum level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(7)(a)(b)(c) Evidence of initial induction of new staff members and annual review of policies and procedures of the service was available on file.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was not available for one staff member who had lived outside the state for a period over 6 months.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The staff member is no longer employed by the service. The registered provider will ensure that when hiring any new employees, police vetting from any country the applicant has resided in for more than six consecutive months will be sought before the applicant begins working in the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Communication from registered provider.

### Summary Comment

All evidence submitted meets the requirements Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

There were written policies, procedures and statements, as specified in Schedule 5, available for the service. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the following: statement of purpose and function, policy on fire safety, policy on inclusion, policy on outings, policy on recruitment and policy on managing behaviour in the service. These policies and procedures were appropriate and specific to the setting.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were adequate numbers of staff were working directly with the children at all times. There were 19 children with 6 staff members directly supervising them during the morning of the inspection. The manager and supervisor were supernumerary and available for cover if required.

(2) On the morning of the inspection, the staff to child ratios were maintained as follows throughout the service:

- In the green toddler room, there were 6 children aged 2 to 3 years old being cared for by 2 staff.
- In the blue playschool room, there were 4 children aged 3 to 4 years old being cared for by 1 staff.
- In the orange playschool room, there were 11 children aged 4 to 5 years old being cared for by 3 staff.
- The second toddler room was closed on the day of inspection.

### 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)(a) – (i) Prior to a child commencing in the service, all parents and/or guardians were issued with a child registration form. This registration form was developed by the service and contained all of the required information for parents and/or guardians to complete.

A sample of ten child registration forms were reviewed on the day of inspection, and all were completed in full with appropriate declarations signed by parents and/or guardians.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

Information for parents was available in several locations, namely: parent’s information leaflets provided to new families entering the service, on information notice boards, in the services policies and procedures and via email. The information provided to parents proposing to register their children in the service included: the details of staff members, the age profile of children who the service caters for, class of service and the hours which are on offer. Details of the services policies and procedures and adult to child ratios. Details of the facilities and the programme of activities and care provided were available and accessible to proposed parents.

## 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

Staff members were observed to treat the children with respect and positive regard. They sat with children in small groups or individually, engaged in conversation with and listened attentively to the children as they spoke. An example of this was observed when a group of children were engaged in an activity making dinosaur eggs. The staff members extended the children’s knowledge through discussion on the size, shape and colour of the eggs. Parent and guardian communication during collection and drop off periods, provided an opportunity for staff to share information with parents. Additional methods of communication such as phone calls and emails were used to share information, pictures and observations regularly.

The service was implementing an inclusion policy and this was evident in their practices during the inspection. The environment was inclusive and representative of the children attending the service, with images of the children and their families displayed. Adjustments to the learning environment and teaching strategies were used to support the learning and development of all children attending 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) There was a person trained in first aid available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b) There were suitably equipped first aid boxes stored in in the first aid supply press premises. They were available for the use of the children attending the early years 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
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- (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 which had taken place in the service. The most recent fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 10 July 2023.
- (b) There was a record available demonstrating that the firefighting equipment was last serviced on 23 June 2023 and the smoke alarm system was last serviced on 26 April 2023.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed beside each emergency exit door on the premises.