

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WD067
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Presentation Play School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Slievekeale Road, Waterford City, Co. Waterford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	X91 K132
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Margaret Mary Healy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/01/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	25	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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**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

Presentation Playschool is located in inner city Waterford. The service opened in 1989. It is governed by a board of management which includes the religious order of the Presentation Sisters. The service provides a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9.00am to 1.00pm to children aged from 3 to 6 years of age. The service is operated from a large cabin on the grounds of the Presentation National School. The preschool service consists of two classrooms, a large hallway, toilets and two designated outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

There are seven staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a)(b),

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire safety measures.

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*

*(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.*

*(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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) (b)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were seven staff employed in the service, including the manager. All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were 14 written and validated references available on file from past employers for the staff members.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all seven staff members.

(d)  
Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)  
There was evidence on file that all staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

## 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

The written policies, procedures and statements specified in schedule 5 were in place for the service. The policies reviewed on this inspection were the policies on infection control and the policy on managing behaviour. Both policies were complete and specific to the service.

### 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)  
There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service.

(3)  
There were 25 children aged from 3 to 6 years in the care of 6 staff.

### 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 registered provider ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together, playing together and going outside for a walk around the grounds. Interactions between children which were well managed by the staff who were caring for them.

A key person system was in place which ensured that children's individual needs were identified and met effectively. There was a curriculum in place and observations had been carried out on individual children and evidence of their emerging interests and plans for learning were documented. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they were given dedicated time to concentrate on completing the children's learning journals when the children had gone home. The journals observed by the inspector were detailed with the children's work and observations made by the staff who were caring for them. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example, by tidying up the class rooms and putting on their own hats, coats and gloves before they went outside.

Both class rooms were warm and cosy on the day of inspection. It was a particularly cold day, and the children were observed to be comfortable, some were in short sleeves. The temperature of both classrooms was recorded at 20°C at 12.20pm. Children were helped to wrap up warmly and brought for a short walk outside.

The materials and equipment available included a large range of developmentally appropriate Montessori equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials which were well organised and easily accessible to children. There was original artwork done by the children on the walls of both rooms.

Of note was a page which staff had helped each child complete. There was a photo of each child on the individual sheets with answer to a series of questions posed by staff. For example, one of the questions posed was "what do you want to be when you grow up". Staff who spoke to the inspector said this exercise helped them to get to know the children they were caring for better. Staff said it was helpful to acknowledge the children's family make up and also the children's likes and dislikes.

Children were observed enjoying a variety of healthy snacks which were provided by parents. Staff sat with the children making it a sociable and enjoyable time for them.

### 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

The manager had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

##### General safety:

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival. A new gate at the entrance to the playground had been built since the last inspection. The outdoor play area was safe, suitable and secure.

##### Infection control:

The service appeared clean on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were available throughout the service to document the regular cleaning of the preschool rooms and toilet areas. There were fridges available in the service to store the perishable food provided by the parents for the children. All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins.

### 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 immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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 that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill that had taken place in the service was recorded in December 2023.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment in the premises was last carried out in March 2023. The fire alarm was last serviced in November 2023.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position beside the entrance door to the service.