

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WD100
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Name of Service:	Woodlands Playroom
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Address of Service:	C/O Woodlands Leisure Centre, Dunmore Road, Waterford, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X91 CC2R
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary Molloy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	23/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
Title:	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).

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Description of service

This sessional service is in the Woodlands Hotel leisure centre. A preschool service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm. The service operates from two preschool rooms that have been adapted to provide a preschool service. There is a kitchenette, toilets, nappy changing facilities and an outdoor area to the rear of the service. The service also has access to the hotel grounds where children are brought for walks.

Staffing

There are five staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff working with the 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.

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

Regulation 11 Staffing levels,

Regulation 19 Child health and welfare,

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),

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Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4),
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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.

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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)(c)

There was a designated person in charge and a person who was available to deputise as required in the service on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the person in charge and on review of documentation, it was established that there were five staff employed in the service. All required written and validated references were available on file for all staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

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(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 were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the service throughout the duration of the inspection.

(3)

At 11.00am there were 16 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age in the care of 3 staff.

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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 had the use of two rooms in the service. There were a large room and a smaller room to the side of the main classroom.

The main room had been developed with care and attention to the age and stages of the children attending. There was a supply of paints, crayons, art materials and paper for painting. There was a shop with miniature products for children to play with. There were toys and play equipment such as dinosaurs, cars, trucks and small world figurines stored in boxes on shelves for children to play with. There was a birthday wall in the room. Staff had taken the time to photograph each of the children and display their birthdate and photo on coloured paper plates.

The second room was a cosy smaller room which had a mural on the wall. There were jigsaws and a supply of reading books for the children to look at. Staff who spoke to the inspector said children who were a little overwhelmed could come and relax in this room.

There was a small area off the main room where children could read a selection of reading books. This was a cosy area with a pretend fireplace that created a homely and comfortable area for children to play in.

The outdoor area was a tared surface surrounded by a fence directly accessed from the rear of the service. There was a supply of ride on toys for the children to enjoy in the outdoor area. There were small benches and tables for the children to relax on.

Staff were observed to be kind and attentive to the children in their care. The children were observed during circle time. Staff were observed to be skilled in listening and encouraging the children to share their news with their friends.

The service provided all the snacks for the children attending the service. The children were observed enjoying a snack of fruit and crackers and water for their morning snack.

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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 was accessed from the main reception area in the leisure centre attached to the hotel. The door to the service was secure on arrival to prevent children from leaving unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised people gaining access to the service. Access was gained to the service by ringing the bell. The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children.

Infection control:

The service had an infection control policy. The service appeared to be clean and well maintained. There was thermostatically controlled warm water available in all wash hand basins in the service. There was liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal bins available throughout the service. Effective handwashing practice was observed. Children were supported to wash their hands before snacks, after using the toilet and after messy play.

Accidents and incidents

Previous records of accidents and incidents were reviewed in the service. The recording of the accidents and incidents was in line with the service policy. Parents had confirmed they were informed by signing the documents which were reviewed by the inspector

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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 staff member trained in a first aid responder course available in the service on the day of inspection. There were two staff members trained in a first aid responder course working in the service which was sufficient to cover the roster.
- (2)
- There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and available to the children attending the service at all times

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 template in place to record any fire drill which had taken place in the service.
- (b)
- There was a record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment available in the service. This maintenance was carried out in June 2025. The annual service of the smoke alarm was carried out in service in September 2025.

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(4)

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

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The last recorded fire drill took place in December 2025. Preschool services are required to carry out monthly fire drills to ensure the safety of the children attending the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A fire drill was carried out shortly after the inspection. A staff member has been given the responsibility of ensuring monthly fire drill are carried out going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the fire drill carried out shortly after the inspection was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.