

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WD100
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Woodlands Playroom
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	C/O Woodlands Leisure Centre, Dunmore Road, Waterford, Co. Waterford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	X91 CC2R
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Molloy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	20/10/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	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, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

<b>Authority to Inspect</b>
The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Childcare 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 premises is located in the Woodlands Hotel leisure centre. A sessional 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 early years rooms that have been specifically adapted to an early years 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 three staff employed in the service including the registered provider. All staff working in the service had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Childcare 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 the Child,

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

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 registered provider, 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.

(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 registered provider 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 registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were four staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. All four files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were six written and validated references available on file from past employers. There were two written references available from reputable sources for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

There was evidence to demonstrate Garda vetting was available on file in the service for all four staff members.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as none of the staff members had worked in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There was evidence on file that four staff working directly with the early years 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 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 an adequate number of staff working directly with children attending the service.

(3)

At 10.30am there were 3 staff working directly with 8 children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The registered provider was also available in the service on the day of inspection. There was one third level and one second level student also in the service on the day of inspection. The two students were available to assist the qualified staff in the service as required.

### 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. When the inspector arrived at the service the children were wearing aprons and were playing with water in basins on their desks. Staff had placed toy sharks and whales in the water. Staff were observed to be kind and considerate to the children encouraging them to explore all they knew about sharks and whales. The early years room was well laid out with care and attention to the children attending the service. There was a supply of art materials and paper for painting. There were toys and play equipment such as plastic bricks, cars and trucks and small world figurines stored in boxes on shelves for children to play with. There was a small area off the main early years room where children could relax and enjoy a selection of reading books.

The outdoor area has been extended since the last inspection. The area consists of a tarmacked area surrounded by a fence. There is a supply of ride on toys for the children to enjoy in the outdoor area. The service provides all snacks for the children attending the service. The children enjoyed a snack of blueberries, apples, marshmallows and were given water to drink. Staff were observed to be kind and attentive to the children in their care. For example, children who took longer to eat their snack were given plenty of time to finish as the staff facilitated other tabletop activities for the other children attending the service.

## 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 registered provider 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 leisure centre. The door was secured and access was gained by ringing the bell situated outside the door. The outdoor play area was safe, suitable, and secure. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves that were inaccessible to children.

#### Infection control:

The service appeared to be clean on the day of inspection. There was a fridge available in the kitchenette to store the perishable food provided by the service 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. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilets.

## 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 for children available to children attending the service.

(2) A suitably equipped first aid box was available.

(a) It was stored safely in a conspicuous position in the early years service.

(b) The first aid box was always available to children.

### 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 in the service to record any fire drill that takes place in the service. The last fire drill carried out in the service was recorded in October 2023 when the service was last opened.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in June 2023. The smoke alarm was last serviced in July 2023.

(4)

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

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was evidence that adequate insurance was in place for the children to attend the service.