

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW211
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Stars on The Lane
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Theatre Lane Studios, Theatre Lane, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 P7VO
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Watson and Kara Gargolinski McAlister
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/07/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	54	PM	50
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M. Condon and O. Quill
<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

This service is located in the centre of Greystones village and provides full day-care, part-time day care and a sessional service to pre-school children aged between 2 years and six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07.30am and 18.30pm and is registered to care for a maximum of 110 children at any one time. The premises is located in a two storey business premises which has been purposely adapted for use as a service. There are six care rooms used to care for pre-school children namely, the Global Gardens room, Middle room and Naionra Mor located on the first floor and the Rainbow room, Where's Wally room and the Sensory room located on the ground floor. Children have access to an outdoor area which is located on the rooftop.

### Staffing

A total of twenty-one adults are employed to provide direct care for pre-school children. One additional staff member is employed to assist with domestic duties. The registered provider, person-in-charge and area manager were present on the day of inspection and were available to give assistance in the rooms as needed.

On the day of inspection ten adults provided direct care to fifty-four pre-school children.

### 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 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.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.

(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) The service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the Inspectors and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)  
There were a total twenty-five staff members employed in the service. This number includes the registered provider, person-in-charge and area manager who were present on the day of inspection. These twenty-five files were reviewed on the day of the inspection.

(a)&(b) There were fifty written and validated references for twenty-five staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of processed Garda Vetting Disclosures was available for twenty-five staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was available for eleven staff members who had lived in another state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that twenty-four staff members had 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. One staff member was employed to carry out domestic duties and therefore did not require a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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) Throughout the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the pre-school children. On the day of inspection there were fourteen staff members caring for fifty-four children on inspection. The registered provider, person-in-charge and the area manager were available to give support in the rooms as needed.

(2) The adult/child ratios were maintained throughout the inspection.

(8)(a) There were more than two adults present in the premises throughout the inspection and the staff roster confirmed there are at least two adults present 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*  
*(c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

Twenty files were examined.

In relation to the files examined, the record required in writing in relation to (a)-(i) above was kept for each child. The children’s files were located in a secure place in the service.

(3) (c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) (a)-(i) was open to inspection on the premises by the inspectors.

### 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 main entrance door and the side entrance door to the service were secure. A visitor's book was available in the hallway on arrival. With the exception of points 1-3 below, the service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor.

##### Infection Control:

The staff members supervised children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Written cleaning schedules were on display for the room environment and sanitary area which were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

##### Administration of Medication:

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. Medicine was safely stored. Care plans were available for individual children who may require medication and their medication was stored safely in an easily accessible location.

##### Safe Sleep:

Five children slept on low beds in the Global Garden room at 12pm while supervised by a staff member. The inspectors observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks. The room temperature was maintained between 16 and 20°C when children were sleeping.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- Two flexes attached to electrical equipment in the Rainbow room were not secured and created a trip hazard.

##### Infection Control:

- Two pedal bins one in the sanitary area off the Where's Wally room and the second in the Rainbows room were broken which posed an infection control risk.
- The nappy changing practice was inadequate. The inspectors observed the following while two staff member changed children's nappies:

- The staff members observed did not change their gloves after changing the child's nappy and before dressing the child.
- There was overhandling of the pedal bin lid as it was broken.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### General Safety:

1. Flexes were tacked up to the wall with nails and surrounds in the Rainbow Room and photos were submitted to the inspector. Training was carried out with all our team so that they know the importance of ensuring that flexes are secured.

### Infection Control:

2. We purchased 3 new pedal bins to replace the two which had broken. We conducted a full creche training to ensure that all our team know the importance of ensuring any breakage is reported immediately so we can replace as required.
3. We have repeated one to one nappy changing training with each staff member and repeated this training as a group. We also have the protocol on display on the wall in front of the nappy changing area.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of the flexes secured and the new bins.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliances as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

### 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) In total nine members of staff had a qualification in First Aid Response. On the day of inspection seven adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending 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 fire-fighting 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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last fire drill was recorded on the 15/07/2024.

(b) Written records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms, both dated 15/03/2024.

(4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in all rooms and hallways in the service.