

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	ABC Club-Early Years Service
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Caroreigh, Taghmon, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 HW82
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anne Marie Whitty
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/04/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	6
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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

**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

ABC Club Early Years Service is in a rural community in Co Wexford. The new registered provider took charge of the service last year. The service provides a part-time service to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service also provides an Early Years Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and is registered to cater for a maximum of 23 children. The service is operated from a detached house which has been adapted for the use of the preschool service. The service consists of an entrance hall, two playrooms, one called Mo Chairde and one called Aistear na nÓg. There is a kitchenette, children's toilets and separate staff toilet. To the rear of the service there is a large, enclosed play area.

### Staffing

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

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 three staff employed in the service, including the registered provider. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were four written and validated reference available on file from past employers for the two staff members. There were two written references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

(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)

All three staff 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.*

*(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)

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

(2)

At 11.00am

There were 18 children in the care of 2 staff.

At 1.00 pm

There were 6 children in the care of 2 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 in the outdoor area and enjoying story time with staff reading stories to them. Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example putting their lunch boxes away after their snacks. Children were given a choice whether they wanted to have a story read to them or do tabletop activities.

There was original artwork displayed in the classroom. During activities staff used opportunities to extend children's learning and development using appropriate language which children identified with as activities were based around children's interests. For example, staff were observed dancing and singing "shake your sillies out!" with the children. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children chatting and encouraging them to share news of new babies that had recently been born into their families.

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 in the classrooms. There was a range of equipment and materials available in the outdoor

area which was purposefully structured to develop children’s curiosity and desire for sensorial play. There were swings, a willow tree, wooden troughs full of sand for digging another equipment to support imaginative play was also available in this area.

Children were observed enjoying a variety of healthy snacks which were provided by parents. These snacks included fruit, sandwiches, and rice cakes. Staff sat and chatted with the children making it a sociable time for them and giving them an opportunity to chat to their friends.

### 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 took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

##### **GENERAL SAFETY:**

The external door and internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves which were inaccessible to children. The outdoor area was safe, suitable and secure.

##### **Infection Control**

Children were supported with hand washing after they used the toilet and after messy play. The service was clean, daily and weekly cleaning schedules were maintained in 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 responder course 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 was recorded as having taken place in March 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in the service in October 2024. The annual record of the maintenance of the smoke alarm in the premises was carried out in March 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to 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 adequate insurance in place in the service to cover the children who were present on the day of inspection.