

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX016
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Start Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Star Lane, Clonard, Wexford, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 WR86
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Whitney
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/02/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	46	PM	42
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspector Tusla Child and Family Agency Ely Hospital, Ferrybank Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<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 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

Bright Start Creche is a privately operated preschool service which opened in its current location in 2003. It offers full day care service to children aged between 6 months and 6 years of age. The service operates from 7.30am to 6pm and is open 51 weeks per year. The service operates from a residential house in Wexford town and consists of seven playrooms, a designated sleep room, sanitary accommodation, and kitchen. A large outdoor garden and play area is available to the rear of the property which is fully enclosed.

### Staffing

The service employs 20 staff to work with the preschool children attending the service. The registered provider and manager work daily in the service and assists across the rooms as needed. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 (1)(a)(b)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(4) Management and Recruitment,  
Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 19 (a) Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid,  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety and  
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, 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)(b)

On the day of the inspection there was a designated person in charge of the service. The registered provider and the manager are on the premises daily.

The staff files for all 20 staff working directly with children were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff members file.

- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available for all the staff working in the service.
- (d)  
Police vetting disclosures were available on file for the staff who had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
Certificates of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

### 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)  
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2)  
In the morning:
- **Baby room:** There were 6 children in the care of 2 staff. (2 aged between 0 and 1 and 4 between 1 and 2 years).
  - **Green room:** There were 7 children in the care of 2 staff. (4 aged between 1 and 2 and 3 aged between 2 and 3 years).
  - **Red room:** There were 4 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 2 and 3 years).

- **Blue Room:** There were 4 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **ECCE room 1:** There were 10 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 4 and 5 years).
- **ECCE room 2:** There were 6 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **ECCE room 3:** There were 11 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).

In the afternoon:

- **Baby room:** There were 6 children in the care of 2 staff. (2 aged between 0 and 1 and 4 between 1 and 2 years).
- **Green room:** There were 6 children in the care of 2 staff. (3 aged between 1 and 2 and 3 aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Red room:** There were 4 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **Blue Room:** There were 4 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 2 and 3 years).
- **ECCE room 1:** There were 9 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 4 and 5 years).
- **ECCE room 2:** There were 4 children in the care of 1 staff. (All aged between 3 and 5 years).
- **ECCE room 3:** There were 9 children in the care of 2 staff. (All aged between 3 and 4 years).

## 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*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the areas of basic needs and supporting relationships on the day of inspection.

The routine of the children in the baby room was led by the needs of the child. The staff planned daily activities and on the day, were planning to paint the children's feet. The room was spacious, which allowed for children to crawl, pull themselves up and walk.

There were plenty of toys and materials available for play, including opportunities for sensory/tactile play. The staff took pictures of the daily activities, and this was displayed with other artwork done with the babies in the room.

Children's sleep routine was based around their home pattern and nappies were attended to regularly throughout the day. Staff maintained a daily log of nappy changes, sleeps and food eaten by the children, which was shared with the parents at collection time.

The staff were fully engaged in play down on the floor with the children. For example, the staff read a story to the children in the morning and there were continuous interactions and chatting observed.

Children in all the rooms were engaged in a variety of activities and play during the morning such as play dough, circle time, reading stories, floor play, tabletop activities such as developing scissors skills. Children were excited and confident in sharing their news about their day in creche and asking questions with the inspector.

In the green room children were busy and engaged in play and activities. The staff were skilled and confident in managing behaviours with the children around sharing and taking turns. "Gentle hands". The children were given prompts to tidy up which supported the transitions between activities, making it calm and smooth. The staff offered the children choices "would you like to read a story?". The staff were observed to attend to personal hygiene during the morning such as wiping runny noses and nappies were changed by the staff on a regular basis. Staff cuddled and comforted a child who was upset.

The children ate their meals in their rooms, with the mealtimes relaxed and unrushed. Highchairs were available for young children and child sized table and chairs for older children. Staff helped children with handwashing before eating.

The children in the ECCE room 3 set their tables with a tablecloth, plates, cups, napkins and cutlery. The dinner was brought to the room on a tray which was served to the children by the staff. Children were asked what they wanted with their pasta such as sauce, cheese and garlic bread. Water and milk drinks were offered.

Children had access to a number of outdoor play areas that were located to the rear of the premises. In the afternoon children enjoyed time outside. Wellies and wet gear were available if needed. In the ECCE room 1, children had the choice of whether or not they wanted to go outside, with the two divided between inside and outside. Children were allowed to bring out toys from the playroom to the outdoor play area.

## 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 entrance to the premises was secured. The outdoor play areas were fully enclosed.

#### Infection Control:

The playrooms were clean and well maintained. There was warm water, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets. Regular handwashing took place during the morning. Nappy changing was carried out in line with the services nappy changing policy, with staff observed wearing gloves, aprons and cleaning the changing mat between nappy changes.

#### Administration of Medication:

There were currently no children in attendance requiring administration of medication. The staff were aware of the procedure to follow within the service if children required administration of medication while attending.

#### Safe Sleep:

The service had a designated sleep room, located adjacent to the baby room with cots to meet the needs and ages of babies and young children. Sleep mattresses/beds were available for older children to sleep on. Individual bed linen was available, which was changed between children as needed. In red and green rooms, young children were settled to sleep in their rooms after dinner.

Staff who spoke with the inspector were aware of safe sleep practices for example, how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate and the optimum sleep room temperature. The staff remained in the rooms with the children who slept on the beds/mattresses in the red and green rooms while they settled to sleep. The staff in the baby room carried out physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe sleep on younger children sleeping in cots.

### 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 were staff trained in first aid for children available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

### 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)

Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 5 February 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in March and November 2023.

(4)  
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.