

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX038		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Curracloe Community Playgroup Ltd		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Community Centre, Curracloe, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y21 FK81		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary Griffith		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/11/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM N/A
<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		

### Description of service

Curracloe Community Playgroup is a community-based playgroup which is managed by a voluntary committee. The service offers a play based sessional service from 9.30am to 12.30pm and can accommodate up to 22 children aged from 2 years 10 months to 6 years. The service operates from the community centre in the village of Curracloe. The service consists of one large playroom, child and staff sanitary accommodation, kitchen, lobby area, office, storage area and an outdoor play area.

### Staffing

There are four staff employed in the service. The registered provider does not work directly in the service. There is a designated person in charge who works daily with the children attending the service. The staff working directly with the children in the service hold qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 and above.

### 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 the following regulations: sampling took place under regulation 15:

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

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels,  
Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child,  
Regulation 21 Equipment and materials,  
Regulation 22 Food and drink,  
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 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 the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

- (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)(2)  
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with children ensuring that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained at all times. During the morning there were 13 children being directly cared for by 2 staff.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

A sample of six children's enrolment forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The playroom was well equipped and furnished with a variety of furniture, toys and materials. There were child sized tables and chairs suitable for tabletop activities and snack time. There was sufficient space for children and staff to move around and enjoy dancing and singing during the morning. There were open shelves available where children could choose what they wanted to play with. Books were easily accessible to the children in the quiet corner which was set up with a small child sized sofa, a ball pit, mats and cushions. Interest areas were well developed and resourced with a variety of toys, equipment, open ended and natural materials.

Children were able to easily access what they wanted to choose during free play time. There was a sufficient variety of toys and equipment including manipulative play materials for fine motor skills. Toys and materials included a sensory tray, a kitchen/home corner, dress up clothes, reading materials, construction toys, a rest area, block/ bricks, cars and dolls. Around the room there was photographs of their daily activities, birthday wall, family photographs and their local community. Located just inside the door to the playroom was a sheet used by the children as their register. The children added their picture to the sheet each morning to show their friends who was in school. The children took their picture down at collection time.

The outdoor equipment and interest area included items such as the mud kitchen, benches set up for tabletop activities and snacks, playhouse, a climbing frame, digging area, ride on toys, a mud kitchen and sand pits. There was a variety of surfaces such as lawn and all-weather soft surface areas.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service had a healthy eating policy and parents were asked to supply healthy foods and snacks in line with the policy. Children’s lunches including perishable foods were stored in the fridge in the kitchen. The children and staff sat together to eat their food with staff helping children as needed. The staff cleaned the table and set out cups and lunches for the children. Children drank water and milk from their individual bottles, which they were available to freely access in the room. The atmosphere during snack time was relaxed and sociable with plenty of discussions between staff and children.

## 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 areas were fully enclosed with safety crossing stripes painted from the entrance door to the play area beside the carpark. Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed. Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities. Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed throughout the day with regular handwashing taking place.

## 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 FAR and 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)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 18 October 2024.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm were serviced in April and November 2024.

(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.