

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX045			
Name of Service:	Erika's Fairy Wood			
Address of Service:	Fairy Wood, College Rd, College Rd, Gorey, Co. Wexford			
Eircode:	Y25 K8K8			
Name of Registered Provider:	Erika Chambers			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date of Inspection:	11/09/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	51	PM	20
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.			
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan			
Title:	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).				
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable			

Description of service

Erika's Fairy Wood is a privately operated preschool service which opened in 2007. It is located in Gorey Co Wexford and offers a combined Montessori play based programme to children aged between 2 ½ years and 6 years. The service operates as a part time service and can accommodate up to 66 children at any one time.

Staffing

The service employs 10 staff to work in the service including the registered provider. The registered provider is the designated person in charge on the premises daily and works with the children in 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.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2)(4) – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of the Child,

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) 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, 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 of the service on the inspector's arrival. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

The files for all staff working in the service 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 partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. See regulation 23.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

There were certificates of qualification for all staff members working directly with the preschool children 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)

During the inspection, there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

During the morning there were 7 staff caring for 51 children.

During the afternoon there were 4 staff caring for 20 children.

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 following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service on the day of inspection.

The children from the sunflowers room were outside in the garden on the inspector's arrival. They were observed to enjoy free play before returning to their playroom for their morning snack. When they returned to the room, the children told the inspector how they washed their hands after playing outside and before eating.

Children in the snowdrop room enjoyed their morning snack and circle time. Two children who were unsettled during the morning were comforted and reassured. One of the children was observed to seek reassurance and comfort by sitting on the staff's lap and holding her hand. After circle time the children engaged in Montessori work which they freely choose from the open shelves.

In the buttercup room the children were inquisitive and asked the inspector why they were visiting their playschool. They enjoyed telling the inspector how old they were and were excited to celebrate a birthday after their snack.

During the morning children were observed to freely use the toilet, with staff close by to help if needed and ensure children washed their hands.

Each playroom had a phone for staff to text and call parents directly if needed. Parents dropped off and collected their children from the individual rooms and talk directly to the staff caring for their children.

Outside each of the playrooms information was displayed about the children's learning and activities. In the entrance hall a notice board displays additional information for parents such as timetables and staff qualifications.

The service consisted of three playrooms: The Sunflower's room, the Snowdrop's room and the Buttercup's room.

Each of the rooms were bright, warm and well laid out. They had birthday and family walls, home corners, dress up clothes, Montessori work, height charts, nature tables, soft sofas and reading areas.

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 door leading into the service was appropriately secured with a buzzer system to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The outdoor garden located to the rear of the premises was fully enclosed. The kitchen and office were restricted to children. Attendance books were fully maintained.

Infection Control:

There was warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels available to facilitate hygienic handwashing for both staff and children. Good hand washing practices were observed during the morning. The premises was clean and well maintained.

Administration of Medication:

Three administrations of medication records were reviewed on inspection. There was evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document any medication given. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspector.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

The service did not demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years. There were Garda vetting disclosures on file for all staff members, however the vetting disclosures for four staff members were not dated within the previous 3 years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda vetting.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

Garda vetting disclosures were applied for. The service will ensure that Garda vetting is renewed within the timeframe going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting disclosures.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position in each of the three playrooms.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There were no staff trained in FAR (first aid responder) available to the children attending the preschool service. It is acknowledged that staff had Paediatric first aid training.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff member was enrolled to complete a FAR course. A second staff member with FAR training will be available in December.

The manager will ensure that there are staff with FAR present at all times going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email from FAR trainer and registered provider confirming FAR training.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted are appropriate to address the non-compliance.

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)

Through discussion with staff, it was established that fire drills were completed every month and staff were clear where the evacuation route was. A fire drill for the month of September had not yet been carried out.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment was serviced in September 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Records reviewed on the day indicated that the fire detection system had not been serviced since February 2022.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire detection system has been serviced. A yearly maintenance contract has been arranged.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the service records for the fire detection system.

Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for part time care for 66 children.