

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX048		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Firstfriends Daycare		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bulgan, Glynn, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford		
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y21 D928		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marian Morrissey		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/01/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	20	PM NA
<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

First Friends is a registered full day care service offering a play-based programme. It is located in a rural community in Co Wexford. As well as offering full day care, the service also offers sessional and after-school care to children aged between 2½ to 12 years of age. The service operates from 8.00am to 5.30pm. The service is located to the side of the registered provider's home. It consists of two playrooms, a lobby and sanitary accommodation. An outdoor garden and play area are available to the children to the rear and side of the premises.

### Staffing

There were five staff employed to work directly with the preschool children in the service, which includes the registered provider. All staff working directly with the children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at the minimum 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 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.

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)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge and remained on the premises for the remainder of the inspection.

(2)

The service employs five staff who work directly with the children. The staff files for the five staff were reviewed on inspection.

(a)(b)

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

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting was on file for the staff that 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 the children attending the service. During the morning there were 20 children being directly cared for by 5 staff ensuring that ratio of adults to children were maintained.

### 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

The service consisted of two rooms, preschool 1 and preschool 2. Both rooms were well resourced to meet the needs of the children. Children in both preschool rooms were actively engaged in play during the morning. They enjoyed free play during the morning, choosing what they wished to play with from the open shelves. The staff prompted them to their next activity, and they tidied up together. The children were interested in the solar system and had painted planets that morning. After their snack, staff made play dough for sensory and messy play. The children made the playdough into volcanos and added paint for lava.

Parents supplied lunches which were stored in the fridge. The snack time was relaxed and unhurried in both rooms. Staff supervised the children with handwashing before eating and sat with them to help as needed. A child who felt overwhelmed in the room and wanted to go outside was facilitated with this by a staff member and rejoined the room when they felt calm. Visual props were used to display the daily routine, family photos, birthday walls and pictures of amenities in the local community and town were displayed.

Staff engaged in play with the children in small groups and also one to one. Children all enjoyed time in the outdoor area. They were excited to see the ice frozen on some of their toys such as in trailers. Children in the preschool room 2 coloured water in little pots to leave outside over night to freeze. The outdoor area was spacious with a variety of spaces for the children to freely play and enjoy. There was a sandpit, water play, ride on toys, climbing frames and balance beams, a seating area and covered area. Parents were welcomed into the service to collect their children and spoke directly to the staff who cared for the individual children.

## 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 18 December 2023.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in October 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.