

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX056
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Horeswood Community Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballyfarnogue, Campile, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y34 RT20
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Margaret Rowe
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/05/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	27	PM	8
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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**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

Horeswood Community Childcare is a community based preschool service. It is managed by a voluntary committee. It operates a full day care, part-time and sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is also registered to cater for school age children. The service is open from 08:00hrs to 18:00hrs for 46 weeks per year. The service is operated from a purpose-built premises for the exclusive use of the preschool service. The service is situated in the grounds of the GAA complex. The service consists of two preschool rooms, a kitchen, lobby, office, toilets and nappy changing facilities. The children have access to an outdoor play area, the GAA grounds and a large indoor football pitch in the service.

### Staffing

There are ten staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the preschool children held at 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 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 Management and Recruitment (1) a, b (2) a,b,c,d,(4).

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2).

Regulation 20 Facilities for rest and play,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child.  
Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance,  
Regulation 25 First Aid (1) (2).  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (4).  
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)

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. All ten staff files were examined on the day of inspection.

(2) (a)(b)

There were 18 written and validated references available on file from past employers and 2 written and validated references from reputable sources.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 10 staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children 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)(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 27 preschool children being directly cared for by 6 staff. During the afternoon of the inspection there were 8 children being directly cared for by 3 staff.

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

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

*(2) A registered provider-*

*(a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

There were suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors during the day. All preschool rooms were adequately resourced with age-appropriate toys and equipment for children to play with. There was a cosy corner in the butterfly room with a good supply of story books available for staff to read to the children. The caterpillar room was well resourced with a variety of toys stored on accessible shelves in the room. There was a supply of plastic bricks, small trucks, dinosaurs and a supply of paints, crayons and paper for children to draw on. Natural materials such as large branches were displayed in the room. There was an extensive library in the room. Children were observed choosing which book they liked and settling to look at them with support from the staff in the service.

(2)(b)

There were adequate and suitable facilities for pre-school children to rest during the day. For example, there were cosy couches in both rooms for children to rest on. The children were facilitated to sleep in the butterfly room on the afternoon of the inspection. Cosy beds with the children's individual blankets and sheets were set up in the room. The lighting in the room was dimmed. There were blinds drawn and a staff member stayed in the room to help settle and supervise the sleeping children.

### 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 which included the schedule of meals and snacks provided for the children. Staff who spoke to the inspector said that a breakfast of cereal and toast was provided for the children who arrived in the service between 08:00 and 09:00hrs if their parents requested it. Parents provided all snacks and meals for the children attending the service. All food provided was stored in large fridges in the preschool rooms.

Staff reheated hot meals for the children who were attending the full day care service. Children were observed to enjoy a variety of hot food at midday. For example, spaghetti bolognese and pasta in tomatoes and vegetable sauce. Children were served another snack on the afternoon of the inspection. This snack consisted of fruit, sandwiches, yogurts and diced vegetables which had also been provided by the children’s parents. Children were provided with water to drink in both preschool rooms.

### 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 manager had taken the following steps to ensure the safety of the children attending the service:

#### General safety:

The entrance to the service was secured to ensure that access was restricted to unauthorised persons and children were unable to exit unsupervised. Attendance records were maintained daily by staff. Accident and incident forms were reviewed on the day and were observed to be fully and accurately maintained.

### Infection control:

Both playrooms were clean and well maintained. There was warm water to support handwashing, liquid hand soap and hand towels available in the toilets. All bins in the preschool rooms and toilets facilities were pedal operated. Children were encouraged to wash their hands before meals and after using the toilet.

### Administration of Medication:

Signed medication record books documented the details of any medications which had been administered in the service in line with the service policy on administration of medication.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
There was a system in place to record the arrival time of each child in the service. The departure time was also noted in the records that were maintained by staff.

## 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 a first aid responder course available to the children at all times.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible 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 recorded fire drill took place in the service in April 2024.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in December 2023, and the smoke alarm in January 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The manager had ensured there was adequate insurance in place for the number of children who were registered to attend.