

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX057
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Huggy Bears Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	St. Leonards, Ballycullane, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y34 A274
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Willie Fizharris
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	01/02/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	11
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<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

This sessional service is located in a rural setting. The service is registered to cater for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The service presently offers a sessional Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is to open from Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 12.00pm. There are afternoon sessions provided between the hours of 12.00pm to 3.00pm for three afternoons per week. The premises is a single storey building situated in a community hall. The premises has been adapted for the use of the preschool children attending. It consists of a playroom, office and toilets. The children have access to an outdoor play area directly beside the preschool service.

### Staffing

There are three staff employed in the service. All staff working directly with the children held 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

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

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),  
Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a)(b),  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety.

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.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service, including the manager. All files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were five written and validated references available on file from past employers for the staff member. There was one written reference available on file from a reputable source.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members which had been carried out in the past three years.

(d)

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

(4)

There was evidence on file that 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

There were at all times an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service.

(3)

At 11.15 am

There were 17 children in the care of 3 staff.

At 12.40 pm

There were 11 children in the care of 3 staff for the afternoon ECCE scheme.

### 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 manager ensured that each child's learning, development, and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were engaged in a variety of appropriate activities during the inspection including eating together, playing together in the outdoor area and carrying out table top activities which were supported by the staff. There was a curriculum in place and observations had been carried out on individual children and evidence of their emerging interests and plans for learning were documented.

Children were encouraged to be independent appropriate to their age and stage of development, for example on arrival to the service the inspector observed the children putting on their coats and hats to go outside. During activities staff used opportunities to extend children's learning and development using appropriate language which children identified with as activities were based around children's interests. For example, the theme of the week was space. One child had been helped to make a helmet and space oxygen tank from two cereal boxes wrapped in tin foil. Children were observed to be excited showing the inspector all the planets which they had painted on large posters which were displayed on the walls of the classroom.

There was an original art work done by the children with a photo of each child on a template which the children had coloured in themselves. The materials and equipment available included a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment, arts and crafts materials and other open-ended materials which were well organised and easily accessible to children attending the service.

There was a range of equipment available in the outdoor area. There was a raised planting area, an outdoor kitchen, a picnic table and ride on toys and tractors to facilitate gross motor play. Staff were observed by the inspector during outdoor play. Staff were found to be actively engaged with the children talking to them, initiating ball games and encouraging them to share with their friends.

### 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:

Access to the service was gained through the front gate of the service. The door to the classroom was secure on arrival. All cleaning agents were stored on shelves that were inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area to the front of the service was safe, suitable and secure.

##### Infection control:

The service appeared clean on the day of inspection. Hand washing was observed in the service. Children were observed being supported by staff to wash their hands with care and attention. Liquid soap, disposable hand towels and pedal bins were available.

### 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 attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous 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 fire drill was recorded as taken place 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 entrance door to the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

There was no annual certificate of the maintenance of the fire equipment or fire alarm in the service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The annual certificate of the maintenance of the fire alarm in the service has been carried out and the document has been sent to the inspector. The service will ensure the fire alarm system is maintained annually as required.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The annual certificate of the maintenance of the fire alarm in the service was received by the inspector. The maintenance was carried out in April 2024.

### Summary Comment

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.