

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX060
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kickstart Education + Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	16 Glen Aoibhinn, Ardamine, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y25 HE63
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Wynette Reid
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	6
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Kickstart Education and Childcare is a full day care service located in Riverchapel, north Gorey. The service currently offers care to children aged between 1 and 6 years of age.

### Staffing

There are 15 staff employed in the service including the registered provider. There was a designated person in charge, who works directly with the children. The registered provider was present on the day. The staff members working directly with the children held 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.

### 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,

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 19. Health, welfare and development of child,

Regulation 22 Food and drink,

Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

Regulation 25 – First Aid,  
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures,  
Regulation 28 – Insurance,  
Regulation 29- Premises and  
Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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, 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)

There was a 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 registered provider arrived at the service shortly after the commencement of the inspection.

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 four 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

(2)  
The following ratios were maintained during the morning:

- Puppy room: There were five children in the care of one staff.
- Bunny room: There were seven children in the care of three staff.
- Joey's room: There were nine children in the care of two staff.

During the afternoon:

- Chimps room: There were six children in the care of two staff.

The registered provider and a student were also present in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

On the day of inspection there was inadequate number of staff working directly with the children for a time in the chimp room. During the morning there were 10 children in the care of 1 staff member. Based on the numbers of children present two staff were required to meet the needs of the children in the room.

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

The registered provider submitted the following response:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff meeting was held after the inspection. Everyone was reminded of the importance of maintaining correct ratios when a staff member is absent. On the morning of inspection there was enough educators in the building but unfortunately, they were not allocated correctly. This responsibility is for the person in charge. All deputy managers will revisit the QRF beginning in September.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Staff absence policy.

### Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met. The regulation will be reviewed on next inspection.

## 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 staff ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service. Children were observed by the inspector engaging in a variety of activities during the inspection. The children were observed both in the indoor and outdoor play areas on the day.

Each of the playrooms had been painted and redeveloped since their last inspection. The rooms were developed and set up with toys, materials and equipment suitable for the ages of the children using them. Rooms showed personalisation with birthday walls, family photos and had clear identifiable interest areas which included kitchen/home areas, art and creativity areas, construction areas, dress-up clothes, jigsaws, puzzles, and reading and rest areas.

The outdoor play area used by the preschool children, was located to the rear of the premises and could be directly accessed from two playrooms. The area had a soft all-weather surface, covered areas and a sectioned off area with a large climbing frame. The large climbing frame was for use by the older children and was supervised at all times by staff. The outdoor area was well resourced with a variety of toys and areas of interest to facilitate free play.

Children had access to their individual water bottles/beakers which was located on a low shelf for easy access. For morning snack time all the children were observed to have bought snacks from home, which included a variety of sandwiches, fruit, yogurts and crackers. The main hot meal was provided by the service. Parents received the menu via email.

Staff responded to children's needs during the day. For example, staff were observed to comfort a child who was upset. Interactions between the staff and children were kind and gentle. Staff chatted with children throughout the day including during nappy changing. Minor disputes over sharing were handled calmly by talking or redirecting the children. Staff were heard instilling positivity in the classrooms, by telling the children how they were doing great work helping one another, praising children's manners and reinforcing positive behaviours.

### 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 parents supply mid-morning and afternoon snacks for their children. The service used an outside catering company to provide the main hot meal which was cooked onsite daily. A menu plan was emailed to parents who can order dinner for their child. Parents have the option to send in their own dinner which can be reheated. On the day of inspection, the main hot meal was served at 13:00 and consisted of chilli con carne with rice. In the afternoon sharing platters of chopped fruit, yogurts, wraps and ham were served.

### 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 to service was appropriately secured with a magnetic lock to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The outdoor garden was located to the rear and of the premises and was fully enclosed. The lawn area to the front was enclosed by a fence and the gate which was closed throughout during the inspection. The kitchen and utility room for storing cleaning materials were restricted to children.

A sample of 12 accident and incident reports reviewed on inspection demonstrated compliance with the service policy.

The visitor's book was kept beside the entrance door and was completed by any visitors to the service.

##### Infection Control:

All children were observed to wash their hands after outdoor play and before eating. Nappy changing procedures observed during the day was carried out in line with the service's nappy changing policy.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was no child attending who required administration of medication. Staff when talking with the inspector advised that individual care plans were put in place for children as required. Care plans were displayed in the kitchen beside the secured press for the storage of medication.

##### Safe Sleep:

Each of the playrooms had a rest area/cosy area for the children to rest and or sit in. The service had a sleep bed and bed linen available for any child who needed to sleep while present.

#### 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 3 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.

## Infection Control:

2. There was no warm water for handwashing. The water was checked at 11:00 and 12:00 and remained cold. Staff when speaking with the inspector stated that they routinely do not have warm water unless the immersion is turned on. The daily check list for the indoor premises did not have a prompt to remind staff to ensure there was warm water. The lack of warm water is at variance with the service's hand hygiene policy. It is acknowledged that when the water was rechecked on a third occasion at 13:00 the water was warm.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

### Corrective & Preventive Action

1. Garda vetting disclosures are now on file for the three staff. The staff files were reorganised and will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance.
2. A staff member has been designated to ensure that the hot water is turned on and ready each morning. It was added to morning check list.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Garda vetting disclosures and daily morning check list.

## 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 available for use.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

There was one staff trained in FAR (first aid responder) available to the children attending the preschool service. However, this staff member was not present in the service when the inspector arrived and was not rostered to work the full opening hours of the service.

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

The registered provider submitted the following response:

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

The service has three staff trained in FAR. A review of the staff roster was carried out and the service will ensure that a staff member with FAR is always present. There are an additional eight staff with paediatric first aid also.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

FAR certificates.

#### Summary Comment

The registered provider submitted a response that was satisfactory to meet the requirements of the regulation.

### 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)

Fire drills were completed monthly. Through discussion with two staff, it was established that fire drills were completed monthly and recorded as outlined in the service's fire safety policy.

(b)

A record was maintained when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in September 2024 and February 2025.

(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

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a full day care service for 36 children.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(d)

Areas of the service required cleaning, dusting and repainting.

The children's bathroom and staff toilet had dusty surfaces, dirty skirting boards, peeling paint on walls and skirting boards. The toilets were not clean, and cobwebs were visible.

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

The registered provider submitted the following response:

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has closed for summer holidays and the team have initiated a comprehensive and thorough cleaning and painting of the entire building. All rooms, skirting boards, and doors will be cleaned and painted in preparation for reopening in August.

Following the team meeting staff have reviewed the cleaning protocol and practice. All educators will be required to ensure the restrooms are cleaned after each use.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Receipts for paint.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation is met.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,

the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

#### Compliance Information

(1)

The Puppy room (front room) measured 17.9m<sup>2</sup> and had space for the 5 children registered to attend.

The Bunny room (middle room) measured 20m<sup>2</sup> and had space for the 11 children registered to attend.

The Chimp room (big room) measured 24m<sup>2</sup> and had space for the 10 children registered to attend.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(4)

There was insufficient space available in the Joey's room (sunroom) for the number of children attending on the day.

A further review of the attendance records indicated that on the following dates the room was also overcrowded: 19/05/2025, 15/05/2025, 9/05/2025, 1/05/2025 with 10 children aged between 4 and 5 in the room each morning.

On the morning of inspection, the following was observed:

Rooms:	Ages:	Space Requirement:	Space Required:	Space available:
AM	3-5years x 9	1.818 m <sup>2</sup>	16.29 m <sup>2</sup>	13.8 m <sup>2</sup>

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

The registered provider submitted the following response:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has reviewed the layout and arrangements with the room. The middle room and sunroom will not operate as one room. The team have reviewed the number of hours that children attend.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

Room floor and ratio plan.

## **Summary Comment**

The requirement of the regulation is met. This regulation will be reviewed on next inspection.