

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015WX095

**Name of Service:** Paistí Beaga Ltd Pre-school

**Address of Service:** Grange, Broadway, Wexford

**Eircode:** Y35 X202

**Name of Registered Provider:** Deirdre Butler

**Service type:** Part Time

**Date of Inspection:** 05/05/2023

**No of pre-school children:** AM 17 PM NA

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate  
Tusla Child and Family Agency  
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

Paisti Beaga Ltd. Preschool is a community based early years service which is managed by a voluntary committee. The service offers part time care and can accommodate up to 22 children. The service is located in a purposely adapted premises for the sole use of the pre-school service. The service consists of a large playroom, kitchen, entrance lobby, afterschool room and sanitary accommodation. Outside is a large garden area.

### Staffing

There were a total of three staff working in the service. The childcare manager is the designated person in charge daily and works directly with the children. The staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5, 6 and 8 qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 25, 26, 27 and 28.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9, 11, 19, 25, 26, 27 and 28. As a result, the scope of the inspection was concluded in the two of the early years room.

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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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 childcare manager was the designated person in charge and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The childcare manager stated that there was one new staff member employed in the service since the last inspection on 24 March 2021. The file for the new staff member was reviewed on the day of inspection.

#### (2)(a)(b)

There were two validated references available on file for the new staff member.

#### (c)

A Garda vetting disclosure certificate was available on file in the service for the new staff member.

#### (d)

Not applicable.

(4)  
Certificate of qualification for the new staff member working directly with the early years children was 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)  
Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)  
During the morning there were 17 children being directly cared for by 3 staff, ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times.

### 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 reflect the children's experience within the service focusing on the area of supporting relationships on the day of inspection:

The staff and children sat together for their morning snack. The staff supervised the children with handwashing, and then they all sat together to eat. The children's drinks were freely available, located on a shelf with bowls, plates and cups so they could be easily accessed. The snack time was unhurried, with children able to eat at their own pace. The staff chatted with the children and helped them with opening lunches and talked about their news and current interests which were bugs and mini beasts.

The children enjoyed time in the outdoor area during the morning. The staff helped the children put on their wellies and wet gear. The outdoor area was fully enclosed, with an all-weather surface. There was a large climbing frame with slide, a covered area, ride on toys, a sandpit, a kitchen, and planting areas. The outdoor area allowed the children plenty of space for free play, for running and move freely.

Children and staff were observed moving around the room and engaged in different activities and play such as colouring, circle time and painting. The staff were observed to interact and communicate positively with the children, down at the children's level, helping choose toys to play, and listening to them when they spoke. The service worked in partnership with parents and the local school to support children in the transition to primary school. The staff walked the children to the school to visit their teacher and classroom. The parents received information regarding their children's individual progress in the "Mo scéal" booklets.

### 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 available to the children attending the early years service.
- (2)(a)(b)  
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises 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)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment was serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in January and March 2023.

(4)

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

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Monthly fire drills were not completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was carried out on the 13 February 2023.

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

##### Corrective Action:

A staff meeting was held to ensure monthly fire drills are carried out.

##### Preventative Action:

Staff will ensure monthly fire drills are carried out.

##### Evidence submitted:

Copy of fire drill.

#### Summary Comment

The requirement of the regulation Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 is met.

**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 adequate insurance was in place.

**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 27 – Supervision**

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

**Compliance Information**

Children were well supported and supervised during the day. The room was large and spacious which was conducive to allowing staff to fully see children at all times. The toilets were located in the room, and children who were toilet trained could use the toilet independently. The staff were on hand to help and provide assistance when needed. In the outdoor area, the children were able to run freely and engage in imaginative free play, supervised and unrestricted.