

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX108
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	St. Brigid's Community Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Clifford St., Wexford, Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	Y35 WKTO
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Georgina Moore
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/03/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	25	PM	15
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Tusla Child and Family Agency 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

St. Brigid's Community Playgroup is a community based early years service and is managed by a voluntary committee. The service is registered to operate as a full day care service for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The ethos of the service "To build on each child's strengths, interests and abilities. To develop self-confidence, initiative and creativity. To enable the children to play, talk, learn and discovery."

### Staffing

There was a total of six staff including the registered provider working in the service. All the staff working directly with children in the service held the minimum of level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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 9,11,19,22, 23, 25 and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 9,11,19,22,23,25, and 26. As a result, the scope of the inspection included time spent in both rooms.

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
- (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 registered provider was the designated person in charge when the inspector arrived at the premises. There was a second named staff available to deputise as required.

The registered provider stated that there were five new members of staff employed in the service since the last inspection on 26 February 2020. The files for the new staff members were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

There were two validated references available on file for each of the new staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file in the service for all the new staff members.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file as required for the new staff member who had worked or lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for all the new staff members working directly with the early years 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.*

*(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.*

*(4) Subject to paragraph (5), 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 ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3)*

### Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working with the children for the duration of the inspection.

(3)(4)

During the morning, there were 25 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 15 children being cared for by 5 staff.

The registered provider was present also and available to assist across the rooms as needed.

### 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:

In the Bumblebees room, children enjoyed free play during the morning. The staff were engaged in various activities with the children, chatting and supporting play and learning. A child who was unsettled when dropped off, was comforted, and given time to settle and adjust. There was a daily routine, which was flexible depending on the children's interest and how involved they were in a particular activity. Staff ensured that children got the opportunity to go outside to play during the morning, with the staff observed helping the children put on their coats and hats.

In the Butterfly room, children went outside to play after settling in on arrival that morning. The room was set up and well resourced, with children observed engaging in colouring, painting, using playdough, making flowers and cards for Mother's Day, and playing board games. The staff were observed using the board games to encourage turn taking between the children. Children were familiar with their daily routine and helped with tidy up and enjoyed singing and practising Irish in circle time.

### 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 supplied the mid-morning and afternoon snacks for the children. Perishable foods were stored in the fridge. The service provided the main hot meal for children attending for part time and full day care. There was an extra supply of food and snacks on the premises. The staff helped children with hand washing before eating and sat at the tables with them. The staff and children chatted, and help was given with opening lunches and packets.

#### Non-Compliance Information

Food and snacks observed eaten by children was not in line with the Food and Nutrition guidelines 2004 and the service's healthy eating policy. Children were observed drinking sugary drinks and juices, chocolate snacks and bars, yogurts with chocolate, processed snacks, crisps, popcorn and biscuits.

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

##### Corrective Action:

The service will provide snacks for the children.

##### Preventative Action:

The service will provide snacks for the children.

##### Evidence Submitted:

Menu attached.

#### Summary Comment

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

### 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:

Access to the service was appropriately secured with a keypad system on all doors that ensured restricted access to unauthorised persons. Cleaning products were stored away and inaccessible to children. The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secured.

##### Infection Control:

The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff. Children were observed being supervised with washing their hands before eating, and after toileting. The windows in the playrooms were openable to provide natural ventilation.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was an administration of medication policy. Each of the early years room had a first aid box located in a secure place for the storage of medication. Where regular medication was required by a child, the service put an individual care plan in place. There was currently no child requiring administration of a regular medication.

##### Safe Sleep:

A cosy/rest corner was available in the Bumblebees room and consisted of sleep mats, blankets, and cushions if a child required sleep. Children were observed to use the area to rest and relax during the day. The blankets were washed weekly in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. There was no warm water for hygienic handwashing available in the toilets in the Butterfly room.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective Action:

A plumber was called to fix the problem.

##### Preventative Action:

The staff will ensure there is warm water available.

**Evidence Submitted:**

Receipt from plumber.

**Summary Comment**

The requirements of the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) regulations 2016 are 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**

- (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)(a)

Monthly fire drills were carried out within the service. Records reviewed on inspection confirmed that the last fire drill was recorded as having taken place on 28 February 2023.

(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 October 2022.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service. The fire assembly point was clearly identified.