

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015WX112 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Sugradh Childcare Centre |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | South West Wexford Family Resource Centre, Ramsgrange, New Ross, Co. Wexford |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | Y34 DP26 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Jack Butler |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 22/03/2024 |
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| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 47 | PM | 28 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Tusla Child and Family Agency,<br>Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E Mc Garry  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector   |

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| <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). |  |

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

This full day care service is located in the village of Ramsgrange Co Wexford. A full day care, part-time and sessional service is provided to children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. The service is operated from the family resource centre. The service consists of four preschool rooms, two kitchenettes, an entrance lobby, office, toilets, nappy changing facilities, and a large outdoor play area to the rear of the service. There were three rooms in operation on the day of inspection.

### Staffing

The service employs 13 staff including the manager of the service. 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.

### 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 (1) (a) (b) (4).  
Regulation 29 Premises.

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.

(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 13 staff employed in the service. All staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)

There were 21 written and validated references available on file from past employers.

- (b)  
There were 4 written and validated references available on file from reputable sources.
- (c)  
There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the preschool inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.
- (d)  
Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

There was one staff member who had one written and validated reference on file when two were required.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The written and validated reference was sourced for the staff member and is now in place in the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the written and validated reference was received by the inspector.

### Summary Comment

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

### 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)  
There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children at all times for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)  
In the morning there were 47 children with 6 staff. In the afternoon there were 28 children in the care of 6 staff. The manager was available throughout the duration of the inspection and was available to assist across the rooms as required.

### 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*

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service. The children from the playgroup room and the junior room were playing in the outdoor area when the inspector arrived. The inspector noted the children were wrapped up warmly with coats and hats. Staff were observed constantly engaged with the children in their care. For example, Staff were observed to ensure the children took turns and shared the ride on toys which were popular with the children. Children were observed playing in the sheltered class room in the outdoor area, sitting at tables in the fresh air and colouring in pictures which staff were helping them with.

Children in the playgroup room were observed during free play in the room. The daily routine was very calm and relaxed, with the children transitioning between activities seamlessly. Children were helped with handwashing before eating, and personal care was attended to regularly. For example, faces were cleaned after eating and children's noses wiped as needed. The room was resourced with open shelves, toys, books, and small toys such as dinosaurs and cars stored in clearly labelled plastic boxes. Artwork, birthday walls and family photos were displayed.

There were pots of clay with children's names on the side of them. Children who spoke to the inspector said they had planted seeds and were watering them regularly and waiting for them to grow. The children's photos were displayed over hooks on the wall. Staff who spoke to the inspector said this measure was to encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings in the service. Children in the junior room were observed during circle time. Staff used the opportunity to discuss the imminent arrival of the Easter bunny.

All meals and snacks were provided by the parents of the children and stored in fridges in the service. Children in the junior room ate their morning snack in an unrushed and relaxed atmosphere. The inspector observed the children enjoyed a healthy variety of food such as sandwiches, fruit, yogurts and diced vegetables. The children were observed sitting together and chatting. After snack children enjoyed free play in the room. Children who required sleep were settled on suitable mattresses in the sleep room when they needed to rest. Staff were very kind and reassuring to children as they settled them to sleep. The transitions between activities were calm, the staff gave the children prompts. The children washed their hands before their afternoon snack. The children who were attending the full day care service had their hot meal at 3.00pm.

(b)

Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required. Nappy changing was observed by the inspector. Staff were observed talking to the children while changing their nappies. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

### Non-Compliance Information

1.

The areas of interest in the playgroup and junior room needed to be developed for the stimulation of the children attending the service. For example, the home corner in the playgroup room consisted of a small kitchen with limited utensils for children to play with. The junior room was adequately resourced with play equipment but did not have any areas of interest developed in the room.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The areas of interest in the service have been developed further since the inspection. The service now has two additional staff members from the access and inclusion scheme to facilitate children with additional needs in the service. The service also has two new staff from a community employment scheme to assist the qualified staff in the preschool rooms. The additional staff can now facilitate a more stimulating environment in the service. The service continues to work with better start a quality development organisation which supports services in providing play-based equipment and facilities for preschool children.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Not received.

## Summary Comment

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

## 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 gained through the reception of the family resource centre. Visitors were required to sign in and verify their identity before gaining access to the service. The fire doors were not obstructed. The outdoor area to the rear of the service was safe, suitable and secure.

#### Infection Control

Nappy changing procedures observed on the day were in line with the service nappy changing policy. Staff were seen to attend to children's personal hygiene during the day. The service was clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules maintained daily by staff.

#### Safe Sleep

The service had a designated sleep room. Individual bed linen was available, which was laundered as needed. Staff who spoke with the inspector, were aware of safe sleep practices for example, how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate. The staff stated they remain in the rooms with the children till they settled to sleep and carried out physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe sleep.

## Non-Compliance Information

1.  
The water flowing from the hot taps in the service was cold on the day of inspection. Children and staff attending a preschool service are required to have access to warm thermostatically controlled water at all times to support handwashing in the service to prevent cross infection. The inspector acknowledges there was a maintenance person working on the system on the day of inspection.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

The hot water system has been repaired. There is warm water to support hand washing available to the children in the service.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Not received.

## Summary Comment

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

## 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 first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service.

(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 had taken place in the service in February 2024.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in February 2024 and smoke alarm was last serviced in March 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 VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

- (a)  
The manager reported that the building was of sound and stable structure,
- (b)  
The building was safe and secure. Access was gained through the reception of the family resource area.
- (c)  
The lighting was a combination of lighting from electrical fittings with protective covers and natural light from openable windows.
- (d)  
The service was clean on the day of inspection. Cleaning templates were completed daily in all areas of the service.
- (e)  
The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There were six toilets and six wash hand basins designated for preschool children. There were two nappy changing units in the service. There were two staff toilets for the use of the staff working in the service. There was liquid hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins available at all sinks. The sewage is managed through the public sewage system.