

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX118
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Name of Service:	Teach Spraioi Community Preschool
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Address of Service:	Teach Spraioi Community Childcare, Coolateggart, Taghmon, Co. Wexford
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Name of Registered Provider:	John Waters, Teresa Waters
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/06/2025
	27/06/2025

No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	37	PM	8
Day 2		N/A		N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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
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Description of service

This full day care service is in the village of Taghmon Co Wexford for children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08.45 and 18:00 (including a sessional service from 09:30 to 12:30 for 38 weeks of the year). A registered school age service is also provided.

The premises is a two-storey purpose built early years facility which consists of four preschool rooms, sticky fingers, muddy boots, happy handprints, and jumping beans. There are toilets, nappy changing facilities, and a hallway in the service. The children have access to large outdoor play areas to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The service employs total of 20 staff, including the manager, a chef and a maintenance person. There were two students in the service who were supervised by the qualified staff. Certificates of qualification were available for all staff members working directly with the preschool children.

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:

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 28 Insurance.

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The manager was available in the service on both days of the inspection. There was a person named to deputise if required.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 20 staff employed in the service including a chef and a maintenance person. There were also two students in the

service on both days of the inspection. All staff and student files were reviewed. All written and validated references were available on file for staff and students working in the service.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available on file for all staff members. The service demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years in all cases. (see regulation 23).

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for all staff working directly with the children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(9)(7)

There was evidence in place of one-to-one meetings with the manager where staff were given the opportunity to discuss their professional responsibilities and development in the service. There were also certificates confirming staff had attended training on children first which details childcare staff responsibilities in relation to the safeguarding of children in their care.

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.

(2)

Day 1

At 10:30 there were 37 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 13 staff.

At 14:10 there were 8 children aged from 2 to 6 years in the care of 3 staff.

There were two students available on the morning and afternoon of the inspection to assist the qualified staff with the care of the children.

Day 2

There were no children in the service as the staff were preparing the rooms for their summer camps.

The manager was also available for 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 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 enjoying free play in the outdoor areas, doing tabletop activities on large trays filled with pasta shapes and having stories read to them in the cosy rest areas.

Children were observed enjoying free play in the outdoor area on the morning of inspection. Staff facilitated children to enjoy running on the large, grassed area to the rear of the service.

The play equipment in the service was well organised and easily accessible to the children. The inspector observed that all the preschool rooms were developed with care and attention, for example the sticky fingers room had a supply of paints and crayons for the children. The areas of interest in jumping beans were well developed and resourced with toys and equipment suitable to the ages and stages of the children attending. For example, there was a home corner and a dress up area which was well resourced.

All the preschool rooms had direct access to their own outdoor areas. Staff who spoke to the inspector said the children had access to outdoor play every day. The areas were covered in artificial grass which was comfortable and practical for the children. The children also had access to a large playing field, which had slides, swings, picnic benches, and goal posts. To the side of this large field there was a natural garden. This garden was enclosed by a wooden fence. The ground was covered in bark mulch. There were diggers and ride on toys for the children to play with.

Staff were observed playing with the children in the outdoor area. Staff were observed to be constantly engaged with the children in their care, singing and talking to the children, helping them to share with their friends and enjoy their free play time. Staff brought out a deck to play music for the children to dance to. Siblings who were

attending the service got an opportunity to play together when the children from the rooms got together to play on the large, grassed area to the rear of the service.

(1)(b)

The manager had ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards. Children were supervised in the outdoor area to the side of the service. It was a particularly hot day. Staff who spoke to the inspector said parents were asked to apply sunblock to the children before they came into the service in the morning. Children also had labelled tubes of sun block which staff were observed reapplying on the afternoon of the inspection.

The service has a healthy eating policy. Parents provided the morning snack and a hot meal which was heated for the children in the microwave in the service. The service provides breakfast and the late evening snack. The children's nappies were changed regularly. Children who needed assistance with going to the toilet were given assistance when required.

Non-Compliance Information

1.

Children were observed drinking large quantities of juice on the day of inspection. This practice posed a risk of dental decay to the children and was contrary to the healthy eating policy of the service which states that juice is discouraged in the service and nutrition standards for preschool learning and care.

2.

The hot meal was served to the children attending the service on a full day care basis on the afternoon of the inspection. There was one microwave used to heat up the meal. All children were seated at the table at 14:25. The last child did not get their meal until 14:50. All the other children had finished their meal before this child got their dinner. It is acknowledged the child was not distressed and the staff were constantly engaged and chatting to the children who were seated at the table. However, the inspector observed the child social needs would be better met by having their meal at the same time as their friends.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1.

The healthy eating policy has been amended to advise parents that the service will provide water or milk to the children to drink going forward. This is to assist in the provision of healthy options for the children. Since the inspection the service is now in receipt of a grant to support them in providing additional nutritious food to the children attending the service.

2.

An electrician has been employed to install a second microwave in the service. This measure is to ensure all the children receive their main meal promptly.

Supporting documentation submitted

1.

The amended healthy eating policy now in place in the service was received by the inspector.

2.

The work to install the second microwave is in progress. Evidence will be forwarded to the inspector on completion.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence received 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

The manager has 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 door directly beside the office. There was a call bell system in place where parents rang the bell to gain access to the service. Staff could see who was seeking to gain access to the service through the glass door. The outdoor play areas were safe, suitable and secure.

The service had an application of suncream policy. Staff were observed reapplying sun cream to the children on the afternoon of the inspection.

Infection control:

The service was clean. There was a system in place for the regular cleaning and disinfecting of mouthable toys in the service. There were fridges available in each of the preschool rooms service to store the perishable food provided by the parents for the children.

All sinks for hand washing in the service were equipped with warm thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap, and foot operated pedal bins. The temperature of the hot water flowing from the wash hand basin in the toilets beside the muddy puddles room was recorded at 32⁰C on the day of inspection.

Accident and incident

The service had an accident and incident policy. A sample of 10 records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service was reviewed. All records had been signed by parents as stated in the services policy.

Administration of medication

The service had a policy on the administration of medication. A sample of two records of the administration of medication was reviewed. Both records had been signed by parents and contained the necessary requirements stated in the services policy

Outings

The service does facilitate outings. The policy was reviewed and was found to include all necessary steps required to facilitate an outing from the service. For example, the policy stated a risk assessment should be carried out prior to the visit with the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety

1. 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 two 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.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

A vetting disclosure for one of the staff members is now available on file in the service. The vetting disclosures for the second staff member is in progress and will be placed on file and sent to the inspector when received. The

manager has initiated a checking system to inform them when Garda vetting is required to be renewed. This is in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Vetting disclosure
2. A photograph of the system in place to check when staff Garda vetting is required to be renewed was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The response and evidence received is satisfactory to meet the requirements of the Child Care 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 a first aid responder course for children immediately available to the children. There were five staff trained in a first aid responder course available to cover the rota in the service.

(2)(a)(b)
There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises which was available to the children attending the early years 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 template in place in the service to record any fire drill that took place in the service. The last fire drill carried out in the service was recorded in June 2025.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in March 2025. The smoke alarm was last serviced in June 2025.

(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 VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.