

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WX133
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Respond Early Years Service, Daphne View
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Daphne View Community Building, Daphne View, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	X34 XT89
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lisa O'Rourke
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	24	PM	16
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 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

Respond Early Years Service, Daphne View is a community-based early years service. The service operates from a purpose-built premises in a residential estate and offers a sessional and full day care childcare service, to children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The early years service consists of two rooms within the building: one upstairs playroom and one downstairs playroom with a rest/relaxation room. The children also have access to sufficient sanitary accommodation and outdoor play areas.

### Staffing

The service employs eight staff to work in the service including the manager who is the day-to-day person in charge. The registered provider does not work 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9(1)(2)(4) – Management and Recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2)(4) – Staffing Levels,

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of the Child,

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 and  
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, 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)

The manager was the 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 files for all staff, including the registered provider and student were reviewed on the day.

(2)(a)(b)

There were validated references for each of the 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 compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(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 all 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

(1)(2)

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

During the morning, there were 24 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

During the afternoon, there were 16 children being directly cared for by 6 staff.

A student was present on placement on the day of inspection and was supernumerary to the adult to child ratios.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The service consisted of two playrooms, with the downstairs room having direct access to the outdoor play area. The rooms were equipped with a wide variety of play materials, which were of good quality and suitable for the age and stage of development for the children. Open shelving had boxes of materials such puzzles, jigsaws and fine motor toys which allowed children to access them independently during free play. Interest areas were well resourced in the rooms and include a home corner, dress up clothes, open ended natural materials, a calm area, reading areas and constructions toys. The staff set up invitations to play at tables and planned daily activities for the children to freely choose what they wished to play with. This included homemade playdough, autumn leaves

and painting. The children had made brownies earlier in the morning. Both playrooms had personalised touches that included family photos, birthday walls, individual coat hooks for their belongings, visual cues and a daily check in for the children. The atmosphere was calm and relaxed during the morning with the transitions between activities smooth. A minor incident of behaviour between children while dancing was handled calmly and respectfully by the staff.

During the morning the children and staff sat together to have their morning snack. The mid-morning snack was supplied by the service and included a platter of freshly chopped fruit, toast and a bowl of cereal. The children can help themselves to the fruit platter. The children washed their hands before eating and the staff sat with them chatting about their morning routine. Children drank from their individual bottles and beakers, which were located on a table in the room that they could freely access throughout the morning.

On the day of inspection, the children were excited as they were expecting a visit from the fire services. They chatted with the inspector telling her about how they practiced their fire drills, where they stand and showed her their toy fire bag.

At collection time, parents were observed to collect the children directly from the playroom. Parents were provided with feedback on their child's day from the staff member caring for them that day.

The outdoor area is located to the side and rear of the building and is fully enclosed. The area provides children with sufficient space and includes a mud kitchen, sand play, a slide and digging areas. The children also have access to a larger room inside the building that provides space for running and free play on wet days.

The service had a small room used as a quiet and sleep area for children to rest during the day. There were stackable mattresses available for sleep.

### 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 doors leading into each of the playrooms were appropriately secured with electronic keypad systems 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 side of the premises was fully enclosed.

Staff ensured that children were supervised when going down the stairs.

A review of 10 accident and incident forms indicated that staff fully completed the forms in line with the service's policy.

**Infection Control:**

There was warm water to support hand washing with liquid soap and disposable hand towels provided in the toilets within the service.

**Administration of Medication:**

The staff were familiar with the safe administration of medication, and the requirement to ensure written parental consent. There was currently no child attending the service requiring administration of medication.

**Safe Sleep:**

The service had a designated room for children to sleep in if required. Children had access to sleep mattresses and bed linen. Staff stated that children were facilitated to sleep and rest as needed during the day. There were no children requiring a sleep on the day of inspection.

### 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)  
The registered provider had ensured that a person trained in first aid responder was available to the children at all times.

(2)  
A suitably equipped first aid box was in the service and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position.

### 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 fire fighting 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. The last fire drill completed was recorded on the 22 September 2025.

(b)

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

### 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

### Compliance Information

(d)

The service was cleaned and well maintained. The playrooms were bright and freshly painted with cleaning schedules displayed. Toys and equipment including dress up clothes were clean and in good repair. The children's toilets were clean, and warm water was available for handwashing.