

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2016DR019			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Kildarton Specialised Preschool			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	37 Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 X2C0			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Desmond North			
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/09/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM	5
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector			
<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).				
<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable			

### Description of service

Kildarton Specialised Pre-School is a community-based service provided by Saint John of Gods Community Services. The early years service is registered to provide a sessional service for children who typically have a moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability. Children enrolled in the service are aged from two years six months to five years and eleven months. The early years service is located in an adapted two storey residential house in Glenageary County Dublin and operates Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12. 15pm. Four care rooms are available. A sensory room is located in the outdoor area in a log cabin. A purposely designed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

In total nine adults are employed in the service this includes two relief staff. The designated person in charge did not work directly with the children. On the day of inspection nine adults were present.

### 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, records and safety. The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following areas.

Regulation 9(1)(a), (b), (c), (2)(a) -(d) and (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing levels

Regulation 15 (1) (a)-(i) Record of pre-school child

## Regulation 23 Safety

Regulation 25 First aid (1), (2)(a) and (b)

Regulation 26 Fire safety (1)(a), (b) and (4)

The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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,*
- (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) There was a designated person in charge and named persons to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The inspection included a review of four new files for adults employed in the service since the last inspection on the 26 May 2021 and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff employed to work in the service.
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for four adults employed in the service.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for nine adults employed in the service. All of these were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in another state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.
- (4) There was evidence available to demonstrate one adult had attained at a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 on the National qualifications Framework and three adults had a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were five children attending the service being supervised by seven adults on the day of inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*

- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

## Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of seven records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
  - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
  - (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
  - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
  - (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
  - (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
  - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
  - (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
  - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

### 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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and a record of cleaning was maintained.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate.
- Children were supervised and assisted with hand hygiene after play and prior to eating. Individual cloth towels were used for drying children's hands.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Records were kept of medications given to children attending the service. These included parental/guardian consent, the name of the medicine, time and dose given, the staff member's signature and the signature of the second adult who witnessed the administration.
- Care plans were available for children with specific medical needs. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the steps to take to ensure any medication administered to children is done safely.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

##### Outing:

- The service conducts outings and has an outings policy in place. No outings took place 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) Staff had up to date First aid responder training and were immediately available at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored, in an easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

### 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) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. A fire drill was completed on the morning of inspection.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment was dated the 18 April 2024 and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated as being completed on the 16 May 2024.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.