

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY020
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Name of Service:	Playpals
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Address of Service:	131 Glasnevin Avenue, Glasnevin, Dublin 11, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D11 V3H7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Caitríona Kenealy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	20/06/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 2 nd Floor, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
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Inspection undertaken by:	M Foley
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

The service is in the registered providers home which is in a residential area of Glasnevin. The preschool room is located on the ground floor with direct access to the outdoor play area which is at the rear of the house. Sanitary accommodation is located beside the entrance door.

The service provides a morning sessional service for children aged 2 to 6 years old. The service operates from Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). Opening time is from 9.15am to 12.15pm daily.

Staffing

The registered provider is the sole operator of the service and holds a major award at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), in 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 and safety. The inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 (2) & (4), regulation 11 (1) & (3), regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i), regulation 22, regulation 25 and regulation 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i).

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 and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2)

(a)&(b) There were 2 written references available for the registered provider and a named person who can deputise in an emergency.

(c) Garda vetting documents for the registered provider and the named person who can deputise in an emergency were available for inspection.

(d) Not required.

(4) The registered provider holds a major award at Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), in Early Childhood Care and Education and the certificate was available for inspection.

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.

(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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider is the sole operator of this sessional service and works directly with the children. There were 6 children aged between 2.5 and 5 years old in attendance.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained. Attendance records were available for inspection.

(8)(c) The registered provider is the person-in-charge and operates the service single-handedly and has the contact details of a named person who can provide assistance in the event of an emergency.

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 6 children's records were reviewed. These were the records of the 6 children present on the day of inspection.

(a) to (i) The details needed to meet the requirements of regulation 15 (1) (a) to (i) were available on the 6 records reviewed.

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

Parents provided a nutritious snack for their child. The snacks with perishable foods were stored in the fridge in the care room until needed.

Snack time was flexible and on the day of inspection, the children decided to have their snacks at 10.35, this was facilitated, and hand hygiene was carried out prior to the children having their snack.

Each child had their beaker of water, and it was readily available at all times. The staff member sat with and supervised and supported the children as needed.

Conversations about some food items and about the plan for the day were had.

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 available a First Aid Responder certificate with an expiry date of August 2024 available for inspection.

(2)(a) & (b) The first aid box was suitable equipped and readily available in the care room. It was stored out of reach of the children.

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) Monthly fire drill records were available for inspection and the most recent fire drill was carried out on the 07/06/2023.
 - (b) The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment dated 02/06/2023 and for the smoke alarms dated 09/06/2023 were available for inspection.
- (4)
- A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency was on display in the care room.