

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2017DY503
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Paisti Le Cheile
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Collins Avenue East, Donnycarney, Dublin 5
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D05 X535
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Siobhan Fay
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/09/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	16	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	<p>Early Years Inspectorate 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K</p>
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Harte
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<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).	

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

Páistí Le Chéile is a privately run sessional childcare service which operates from a room in a community centre in Dublin 5. The service offers sessional care and education to children aged 3-6years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The service consists of a single care room which extends into the outdoor area by means of a fenced sheltered area, sanitary facilities, and an enclosed outdoor play area. A registered school aged service operates in the afternoon.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs three staff who all work directly with the children and were all present on the day of the inspection including the deputy person in charge and two early years professionals. The registered provider also works directly with the children in the service but was offsite on the day of inspection.

### 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 inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Records in relation to the Preschool Service. As a result, the inspection included Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(K).

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.

### Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on the day of the inspection under Regulation 23, in relation to a non-compliance identified under Regulation 23. A response was received from the registered provider which mitigated the risk identified. See body of report for details.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the deputy 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.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
  - (b) A review of the staff roster and discussion with management demonstrated that a designated person in charge was rostered to be on the premises the week of the inspection for the duration of the opening hours of the service. The person in charge was present in the service when the inspectors arrived.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management showed there are currently four adults including the registered provider working directly with the preschool children. The files of all four adults were reviewed.
- (a) Five written references were available from past employers. Three were verified by the registered provider.

- (b) Three written references were available from a source other than a past employer. Two were verified by the registered provider.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that 3 adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (a)(b) There was no reference validations available for one staff member.
- (3) A review of available records demonstrated one staff member had commenced employment within the service prior to the appropriate consideration of references.
- (4) There was no evidence available to show that one staff member who worked directly with preschool children held 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.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (2) (a)(b) All staff records were checked again, and references were validated. A new staff file check list has been added to our paperwork to ensure everything is completed.
- (3) The staff members most recent references have been validated. Paperwork has been put into effect to ensure references are validated and considered in a timely fashion.
- (4) A copy of the staff members qualification has been added to the file. To ensure staff qualifications are validated if necessary and evidence is kept on file included in new staff file checklist introduced

## Supporting documentation submitted

- Staff documentary evidence
- File checklist

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been addressed.

## 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.*

## Compliance Information

(1) There were 16 preschool children being cared for by 3 adults on the day of inspection.

(3) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived in the service unannounced and throughout the inspection.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (h) The registered provider had a mechanism in place for recording the daily arrival and departure of children to the service.
- (j) Staff advised the inspector that the service had not administered any medication however the registered provider had ensured a mechanism was in place to record the administration of medication in the event it was required.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (i) There was no staff roster available on the day of inspection. An up to date, daily roster of all staff must be maintained to effectively plan for and maintain adequate staffing levels for the number of children attending.
- (k) The registered provider did not ensure an accurate record was maintained for accidents and incidents. A sample of 12 records were reviewed and 8 were observed incomplete.

The following was observed:

- Three records did not include the signature of the staff member who witnessed the incident.
- One record did not include the child's date of birth or the signature of the staff member who witnessed the incident.
- Two records did not include the child's date of birth.
- One record did not include the child's full name, a date of the parent's signature or the signature of the staff member who witnessed the incident.
- One record did not include the date of signature for the parent or two staff members who witnessed the incident.

This is not in line with service policy. Accurate record keeping must be maintained in order to inform parents on incidents involving their children so they can effectively plan for their care and to support safety for children.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (i) A staff roster has now been displayed in the hallway. A monthly roster will be put up by the manager outlining holidays and cover for the month ahead.
- (k) A staff meeting was held, and staff were directed to ensure that the accident and incident form was fully completed. Random checks of the accident book will be conducted by the manager.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- Staff meeting minutes.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 16 have been addressed.

## 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-*

*(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

The following are examples of the care practices observed during the inspection:

- Children's privacy and dignity was supported with the use of cubicles with doors in the sanitary area. Staff encouraged independent toileting and supported when necessary.
- Staff actively engaged with the children at their level they encouraged the children's participation in activities while allowing for children's choice.
- Staff promoted self-esteem and collaboration by assigning weekly roles for each child present to assist in the preschool routine the week of inspection.
- Staff assisted children with packaged items in their lunch boxes and promptly assisted a child who had no lunch from home on the day of inspection to ensure they could join their peers during mealtime. Children were encouraged to drink regularly throughout their meal.

- All children had the opportunity to engage in physical movement and gross motor play both in the large hall and the outdoor play area.
- Staff informed the children of the daily routine and supported transitions from spaces and activities using songs. Providing clarity on routine helps children develop a sense of predictability and security.

### 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:

- Cleaning products were safely stored out of children's reach.
- Equipment and materials were maintained and suitable for use.
- A handrail was present at the steps leading to the garden.
- No trailing flexes were observed.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were supported to wash their hands before lunch and after play in the outdoor area.
- Warm water and dispensed liquid soap and foot pedal operated bins were present to support hand hygiene practices.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was observed stored out of children's reach.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The premises was not secure on the day of inspection which posed a risk of potential access from unauthorised persons. An immediate action notice was issued.
2. Garda vetting was available for one adult. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
3. A child was observed to have whole grapes as part of their lunch. This posed a potential choking hazard and was brought to staffs' attention on the day by the inspector.

### Infection Control:

- Perishable foods such as yoghurt and ham brought by the children from home were not stored in a fridge, this increases the risk of bacteria multiplying to levels which could result in illness in young children.

### Fire Safety:

- Children's attendance records were not maintained in a timely manner. At 9:59am a review of attendance records demonstrated that three children who were present in the service were not signed in. This posed a potential risk of hindering safe evacuation of the premises in the event of an emergency.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- A new Key code lock has been installed on the main door into the service, and the gate will remain locked while the children are in attendance. A meeting was held with staff to inform them of the changes and confirm supervision of children at all times.
- A new garda vetting application has been submitted. All staff garda vetting will be carried out at the same time so we can ensure and added to our staff file check list which will be checked every year before starting date.
- A letter was sent to all children requesting to ensure all food is cut into bite sized piece especially, grapes, mandarins and sausages. Staff are to check lunches as the children open them.

### Infection Control:

- The service now has a shelf in the fridge for the children attending the ECCE service to put their yogurts and perishable food inside. Children's lunch bags will be checked in the morning to ensure everything that needs to go into the fridge is place in the fridge

### Fire Safety:

- A staff meeting was held, and staff have been directed to take role as soon as children enter the service. Frequent checks will be carried out by the manager and signed and time included at end of page when carried out.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

- Photographic evidence.
- Copy of communication shared with parents.

## Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence.

## Fire Safety:

- Staff meeting minutes.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

## 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) A review of available documents and conversation with management demonstrated that a person qualified in First Aid Responder training was available during the operational hours of the service to the children attending the pre-school on the day of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2) (a) (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was not available. A review of the first aid box available demonstrated that the burn dressings had expired. One dressing had expired in June 2022 while the second dressing had expired June 2023. A suitably equipped and easily accessible to adults first aid box should be available at all times to support the care and safety of children attending the service.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a)(b) New first aid boxes were ordered and the contents were checked against the Tusla guidance to ensure everything required was present in the new first aid kit. First aid boxes will be checked by the manager.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- Photographic evidence.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been addressed.