

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017KE502			
Name of Service:	Flowertots Preschool			
Address of Service:	Caragh Community Centre, Gingerstown, Caragh, Co. Kildare			
Eircode:	W91 RV07			
Name of Registered Provider:	Natalie Stout			
Service type:	Sessional			
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/09/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	5
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre Child and Family Agency Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W			
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher			
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.			

Description of service

Flowertots pre-school is located on the outskirts of Caragh Village, Co. Kildare and provides sessional care and education to children from 2-6 years of age. The service operates from the first floor of the Caragh Community G.A.A. centre, two pre-school rooms are provided and secure outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.

Opening hours are from 9:00am-12:00pm and from 12:15pm-15:15pm for 38 weeks of the pre-school year.

Staffing

Six adults are employed in the service and work directly with the children; this includes the registered provider who was present throughout the 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, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(d), (4) – Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (3) – Staffing Levels
- Regulation 15 – Record of a pre-school Child

- Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety
- Regulation 27 – Supervision

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, 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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of six staff members employed and present in the service, including the registered provider, were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

Twelve written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of six adults whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all employed staff members.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4)

The six members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) Police vetting was unavailable for one staff member who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Staff member has completed a manual form and sent by registered post. Upon reply the certificate will be forwarded to the inspector. The service will ensure all future employees have all police vetting documents present at their interview if they worked abroad with children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph x 3

Summary Comment

The requirement for Regulation 9(2)(d) has not been met; the required documentation has yet to be submitted.

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 31 children attending the service being supervised directly by 6 staff members during the inspection.

(3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6.

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.*

(2) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or of 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 particulars specified in subparagraphs (a), (d), (e) and (f) of paragraph (1).

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)-(i)

A sample size of ten child records were assessed and contained the relevant written details outlined in (a)-(i) of the regulation.

(2)

Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.

(3)(c)

All child records were available and open for inspection

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There was a comfortable rest area with soft furnishings available to the children to rest and take a break from activities during the pre-school day if required. There was also a comfortable rest area in the covered outdoor play area that was an inviting space for children to use.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

There was a variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys, materials and equipment available indoors and outdoors for the children to use and play with throughout the morning.

Low level open shelving ensured resources were freely available and easily accessible to the children at all times in the pre-school rooms. The Montessori room included montessori equipment for practical life, language development, numeracy, culture, science and arts and crafts.

Child sized tables and chairs were maintained in good condition and provided areas for the children to engage comfortably in tabletop activities and when eating snack.

The sheltered outdoor area had sand and water play including a water wall, percussion wall and large chalkboard with chalk. There was seating and a construction area and an area for small world play.

The resources and materials facilitated all types of play and learning and encouraged each child to experiment and use their imagination. The children were observed engaged, active and involved throughout the morning as they chose their play and learning materials.

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 main entrance door to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service. A wooden gate was also secured at the top of the stairs for the safety of children when passing through to use the sanitary facilities. The staff members advised the inspector they supervise the children during snack time and immediately cut/halve any foods that have the potential risk of choking and would remove any necklace/beads if observed that a child may be wearing same.

No hazards were observed in the indoor environment or in the outdoor play area.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were observed on a high-level shelf in a cupboard.

Fire exits were clearly signed and not obstructed.

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)

Two staff members present were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)

The first aid equipment was safely stored and in conspicuous positions in the pre-school rooms.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the 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 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 record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises which were carried out monthly.

(b) There were records available detailing the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection system in the service dated December 2024 and 4 September 2025 respectively.

(4)
Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed being supervised by the staff members at all times in the pre-school rooms during the inspection; this included during snack time, bathroom use and handwashing, during activities and when taken for outdoor play. A system was in place to supervise the children when ascending and descending the stairs, one staff member remained in front of the children and one staff member remained behind the last child; this ensured the children were easily observed and staff immediately available to assist as necessary.