

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>USLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018CC508
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lisa's Little Lions
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Knocknagree, Mallow, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 YAA0
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Lisa Riordan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	24/03/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	3
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	13 Market Square Mallow Co Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	B Fraher
<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>	N/A
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### Description of service

Lisa's Little Lions is a private sessional and part time service facilitating the Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, in operation since 2018. The service is registered for children from 2 years to 6 years of age. Opening hours are from 09:00 to 14:00, Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. Lisa's Little Lions is located in the rural village of Knocknagree in north Cork. It operates from the converted ground floor of the registered provider's home and consists of an entry area, a large playroom, two children's toilets, one adult toilet and a partially enclosed office area. An additional room is located to the rear of the service through which the children have access to a dedicated outdoor play area. There is a carpark adjacent to the service.

### Staffing

There were five staff members attached to the early years services including the registered provider. On the morning of inspection there were three staff members 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/ health, welfare and development of the child/ safety. 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 children, registered provider, person in charge, and staff 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named deputy was available to deputise as required.
- (b) Both the registered provider and deputy were on duty when the inspector arrived at the service.
- (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member.
- (2) The staff files in relation to four adults who were employed in the service and one unpaid worker were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the 10 required references, 9 were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 10 required references, 1 was from another source other than a previous employer with a record of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained and were on file for each of the five adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Following review of the staff files, there was no evidence that international police vetting was required for any adult presently attached to the service.
- (4) Records demonstrated that three of the adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 to level 8 as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications. One adult was employed in the afterschool and the other attended the service occasionally on an unpaid basis to do gardening so therefore did not require qualifications.

### 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.*

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

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

#### Compliance Information

(1) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) The service had the required ratio as per regulation in the care room for both the morning and the afternoon. There were three adults directly caring for ten children in the morning and in the afternoon, there was two adults directly caring for three children.

(8)

(a) On the day of inspection, there were two adults present on the premises at all times.

### 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:*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (j) Written parent consent was on file in relation to the two children enrolled at the service, who had been prescribed specific medication. The registered provider informed the inspector that these medicines had not been administered however, written provision was in place to document same, should it be required.

### 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

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff.

#### Basic needs:

- Snacks and hot meals are provided by the parents/guardians with children attending part time being offered at least two meals and snacks. Examples of food eaten by the children were yogurts, crackers, cheese, berries, bananas, spaghetti bolognaise and chicken curry.
- Drinking water was stored in an accessible area of a storage unit and was readily available throughout the day.
- Children had the opportunity to rest and relax with soft seating in the form of chairs and matting.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop independence regarding personal care, particularly with hand washing after outdoor play and prior to meals.

- Children's need for mobility was supported through the use of both indoor and outdoor play areas on the day of inspection, where children had access to a large amount of play equipment.
- Children could access the sanitary area independently, adult assistance was available if required.

### Supporting relationships:

- During snack time, the staff sat at the same level with the children at the tables and engaged in social conversation with the children promoting a relaxed atmosphere.
- Staff communicated with parents/guardians via text and daily interaction at drop off and collection times.
- Learning journals had been developed for each child which included narratives by the adults in relation to individual activities and group work performed by the child and these were sent home each term to the parents/guardians.
- The adults were observed to support the children to interact positively with each other promoting an ethos of friendship. There was a calm approach to managing behaviour. The adults modelled speaking in low tones and supportive interactions as observed when two children attempted to play with the same toys.
- The adults were observed to show respectful and nurturing attitudes towards the children on the day of inspection, with encouragement for specific tasks in a warm and caring manner. This was observed when each child carried out their assigned daily task and during free play.
- Children were observed to partake in circle time, discussing Mother's Day in depth, with each child encouraged to have input.
- A sensory area was built within the service which all children had access to.
- Children were encouraged to be involved in making choices with activities on a daily basis, through the use of a choice dice which they could roll to select activities.

### 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 was secured. This helped to prevent unauthorised access.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The appropriate temperature was recorded in the care room of 18.6°C.
- No electrical cables were seen to be accessible to the children.
- The outdoor area is enclosed by concrete block walls and a gate.
- The windows in the care room were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.

##### Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap, paper towels and air dryers.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before meals and after outdoor play.
- The appropriate temperature range of the water in both sanitary areas and the care room accessible to the children were recorded between 37.6°C and 40.3°C.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste in the sanitary area and care room.
- Children's coats and bags were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available for the storage of perishable foods.

##### Administration of medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to the children on the day of inspection. Care plans were reviewed for children with specific needs and staff were aware of the procedure to carry out in the event of a medical emergency.
- Temperature reducing medicines were stored in original boxes out of reach of the children. The medicine inspected was in date.

##### Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were noted to be wall mounted.

**Outing:**

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The registered provider informed the inspector that they go on outings once a year in May and that a risk assessment is completed prior to this occurring.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) The attendance book was available in which the inspector observed that all of the children present on the day had their check in and out times completed for the duration of the inspection.

(3)

(b) Visitor's records were kept in writing of any person entering the premises and the inspector was asked to sign in and out of the premises.