

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018CC510
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cherryblossoms Lismire
-------------------------	------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Lismire National School, Lismire, Newmarket, Co. Cork
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 R156
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Christina Dunstan
-------------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	18/09/2023
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	5	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	134 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork.
---	-----------------------------------

<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Collins
----------------------------------	-----------

<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
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Cherryblossoms Lismire is registered as a part-time service for pre-school children based in Lismire National School in the village of Lismire Co. Cork. The service is registered to run as a part-time service but is currently operating as a sessional service from 09.20 to 12.20 daily Monday to Friday for 38 weeks of the year. The service caters for children aged from 2 ½ years to 5 years with children attending from the local hinterland. The service also offers school aged care service.

### Staffing

The premises comprises of a school room to the rear of Lismire National School. The room was previously part of the national school premises and has been adapted to be used as a premises suitable for use as a pre-school and for school aged care. The care room has with sanitary facilities for the children within the care room and the staff have use of the school's staff sanitary facilities. The service shares the large outdoor space which is available to the children at separate times to the primary school children. The outdoor area comprises of a hard surface area and two grass areas.

There is parking at the front of the school where there is a footpath to facilitate the safe drop off and collection of the children attending.

### 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.

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, 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.*

*(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 named person in charge, this person was identified to all by her picture being placed on the parent notice board. There was a deputy person in charge in the event the person in charge was not on the premises. On the day of inspection, the registered provider arrived at the service but was not rostered.  
(b) The roster indicated that there was a person in charge on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.
2. There were two staff working in the service and their files along with that of the registered provider were assessed.

Of the three files assessed six references were required:

- (a) Of the four references required one was available from a past employer.
  - (b) Five references were on file from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) In the three staff files assessed the required Garda Vetting disclosure was available for all three staff.
  - (d) Not applicable as police vetting was not required for the adults whose files were assessed.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that all three staff that may work in the service were appropriately qualified at level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following policy was assessed and was up to date and complete:

- The healthy eating policy

#### Non-Compliance Information

1. The policy on accidents and incidents did not outline the processes undertaken to carry out a risk assessment following an accident or incident.
2. The policy on authorisation to collect children, was not complete as it did not outline processes and procedures the staff should follow in the event an unusual circumstance was to occur, such as late collections/incorrect person arriving to collect the child.

Not having up to date comprehensive policies does not guide staff on best practice within the service.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

1& 2, the policies have been updated and now include all relevant information for both staff and parents to follow and implement.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

1&2, The accident and incident policy and the policy on the authorisation to collect children has been received. Additionally the risk assessment form following accidents has been received.

#### Summary Comment

The requirements for this Regulation have been met.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there were adequate staff working in the service at all times.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained. There were two adults working directly with six pre-school children.

### 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.*

(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) There were five children attending the service on the day of the inspection and all six children's enrolment records were reviewed.

(a) – (i) The enrolment forms were complete and up with date with parents and registered providers signatures and the details required to care for the children and with regards to their individual needs.

## 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

(1) (h) The details of attendance were recorded as each child entered and left the premises. This record on assessment was accurate for the numbers of children in attendance.

(i) The staff roster was available and was displayed for assessment as required.

(j) There were no records of the administration of medication as the person in charge stated no medication had been administered in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(k) The records for the accidents and incidents that had occurred in the service could not be assessed as they had been removed from the service. Therefore, it could not be determined if the correct procedures were followed when an accident or incident occurred in the service and that parents were fully informed.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(k) All accident and incident forms have been returned to the service and are available for inspection.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(k) The assurances received via the corrective and preventive action form have been accepted as evidence.

### Summary Comment

The requirements for this Regulation have been met.

## 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, and*

### Compliance Information

#### BASIC NEEDS

- The children's choices were supported when choosing to eat, the service operated a rolling break time and when the timer on the fridge was turned the children could chose to eat if they wished. The children on the day of inspection all chose to eat together and the staff sat and ate with them.
- The children were helped if needed with using the toilet. Two children enrolled in the service this year were wearing nappies however these children were not attending on the day of the inspection.
- Children were provided with aprons when they were painting to protect their clothes and ensure they were not wet and uncomfortable.
- When accessing the outdoors, the children were clothed in coats and wellies due to the overnight rain making the grass areas wet thus ensuring the comfort of the children.
- The children could rest when required as there was access to an adult sized couch where the children were observed to rest and relax while reading and talking with the staff and storytelling.
- The children could move about freely and there was no restriction on movement observed.
- No child enrolled needed an individual care plan.

### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:**

- Mealtime was sociable with the staff sitting, eating and conversing with the children creating a sociable environment.
- The staff caring for the children created a supportive environment. This was observed when children sought support with painting or with building blocks and were observed to help during indoor and outdoor play activities.
- Communication with parents and guardians was at drop off and collection and via a text messaging group set up for the parents.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

- The care room had appropriate height tables and chairs which allowed the children independence with using the table for snack and for tabletop activities.
- The shelving was accessible to the children, allowing them to access their equipment and allow for the children to choose and make decisions on what they played with.
- The outdoor play area had gross motor activities of ride on toys and balls. The children were observed to make chalk drawings and make up stories about the drawings creating a space for imaginary play.
- Sensory play was evidenced through the use of paint and arts and crafts equipment and materials.
- An appropriate rest area was accessible to the children who required a break from activities and an area to rest and relax. This area was observed to be used on the day of the inspection. No child stayed for part time hours and sleep was not required by any child in attendance.

### **PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:**

- The schedule of activities was as yet not available for the session; however, evidence of planning was provided from the activities carried out in the last academic term.

### **Outdoor Area:**

- The outdoor area was a shared space with the primary school. The school and pre-school had agreed the times this area could be used by the service and the children got access to this outdoor space daily.

## 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-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a) There were adequate facilities for the children who were attending the service to play indoors. The care room was set up inclusive of two low height tables and suitable chairs and the set up allowed for children to play together in small or large groups. The children had access to kitchens, garages, work benches and shelves of tabletop activities, arts and crafts, jigsaws and pegboards. The outdoor area was adjacent to the building and was suitable and appeared to be safe with no evidence of items that might pose a danger to children and was secured by a gate to the side of the premises.

## 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

The snacks eaten by the children attending the service were provided by the parents/guardians. The food appeared to be adequate in quantity and nutritious in content. Each child was offered water to drink with their snack.

### 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 internal doors were secured thumb turn locks and no child had access to the school corridor.
- The external door was secured and could only be opened by the staff ensuring no unauthorised adult could gain access to the service.
- The windows were not accessible to the children due to the height of the windows and there were no blinds on the windows.
- All toys and equipment were free from pinch and crush points.
- The cleaning agents were safely stored in a box on a high shelf or in a box nearer the door which was out of the reach of the children.
- There were no kettles in the service and no hot drinks were consumed.

##### Infection Control:

- The children were observed to wash their hands after messy play, after going to the toilet and before snack time minimising the risk of contamination and cross infection.
- Daily risk assessment and daily cleaning schedules were available for inspection to indicate the daily cleaning of the service.
- Tables were cleaned before snack time to ensure a clean surface from where the children could eat, plates were also provided so children had a clean surface on which to place their food.
- There was hot water in both the adult and children's toilets and in the sink in the care room to support adequate hand washing.
- The nappy changing unit was clean and the nappy changing mat was intact.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No medication had been administered in the service. Temperature reducing medication was available in the event this was required in an emergency. The temperature reducing medication was in date and safely stored.

##### Safe Sleep:

- No child slept in the service.

## Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were not blocked.
- The fire extinguishers were safely tethered to the wall and accessible to the staff.

## 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 staff member had up to date First Aid responder training (FAR).

(2) There was a suitably equipped first aid box.

(a) The first aid box was stored on the staff's administration desk.

(b) The first aid box is accessible to the children when required.

## 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.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The fire drills that took place in the service were all recorded and the last fire drill took place on the 07.06.2023 with evidence that drills take place monthly during the academic year observed.
- (b) The firefighting equipment (Fire extinguishers) were last serviced in Sept 2022.
- The procedure to follow in the event of a fire was displayed near the exit door.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b) The smoke alarms were last serviced in December 2021. The paperwork available from the school indicated a fault with the fire alarm and no paperwork to indicate that this had been fixed. Not having alarms in working order to alert the staff and children of a fire may pose a risk to their safe and timely evacuation in the event of a fire in the building. This non-compliance was a concern on the last inspection in September 2021.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) (b) The wired smoke alarm has been serviced on 03.11.2023 and a contract for quarterly servicing has been agreed with the registered provider.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) (b) The certificate for the servicing of the wired smoke alarm has been received, and the assurances given on the corrective and preventive action form are accepted that the servicing of the smoke detection system has been entered into.

#### Summary Comment

The requirements for this Regulation have been met.

### Part VI - Safety

## Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

### Compliance Information

The service was insured as a Montessori service with a capacity of 22 children. The expiry date of the insurance was 27.11.2023.