

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018GY507
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Happy Feet Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 6, Cregán, Barna, Co. Galway.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 EW28
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aoife O'Brien
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/05/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	41	PM	23
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway,
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F.Nic Dhonnacha and S. Meehan
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors

### 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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This privately operated service offers a full day care and part time care provision from 7.30hrs to 18.00hrs. An Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme and sessional care programme between 9.00hrs and 12.00hrs are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 0 months to 6 years of age. The service also caters for school age children with a breakfast club and afterschool programme. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests is provided. The service is currently operating four playrooms. The Big playroom, The Toddler playroom, The Playgroup playroom and the Blue playroom are all on the ground floor of the main building. On the day of inspection, the Nursery was not in use. The service has its own kitchen, where children's dinners are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. There is a designated sleep room adjacent to the Toddler playroom, with six cots for children under 2 years of age, sleep provision. Eight stackable beds are available for children over 2 years of age. In each playroom, quiet rest areas with child size seating and soft matting are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity, if they wish to do so. To the rear and side of the main building, there are secure outdoor play areas for children's play, exploration, and fresh air.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the premises on a daily basis. There was a total of eight adults including the registered provider working in the premises on the day of inspection. Four staff hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a min Level 5, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The service has an adult who works as the designated chef. One adult works solely with the school aged children. Additionally, there is an adult designated to cleaning duties out of hours.

### 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 regulations 18, 26 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

28/06/2023 A regulatory compliance meeting was held by the Inspection & Registration Manager with the registered provider. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the non-compliances identified in the report and action taken by the registered provider to address these non-compliances. These actions are detailed in the report.

### Acknowledgements

The inspectors wish 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
- (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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.
- On the day of inspection, the eleven staff files were reviewed which included two school aged staff files.
- (2)(a)&(b) Twenty-one written validated references on file, in respect of the eleven staff were from a past

employer or a source other than a past employer.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the eleven staff.
  - (d) Documentary evidence indicated five adults, who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, had the required police vetting.
- (4) Six staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 6, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (a)(b) One written validated reference was not available for one staff member.
- (d) Documentary evidence of police vetting was not available for one adult, who had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years.
- (4)
1. Four adults working directly with children, did not have evidence of one of the following:
    - A minimum award in Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, in Early Childhood Care and Education or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.
    - An exemption from the qualification requirement and confirmation that the Minister accepts this exemption.
    - The qualification requirement or relevant specialist training and the basis on which the capitation may be used for a person employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM), detailed in an exemption letter from Pobal.

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

On the 30/5/2023, 2/6/2023, 16/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)(a)(b) One written validated reference was obtained for a staff member and placed on file in the preschool service.
- All staff will provide two written references that will be validated before commencing work in the service going forward.
- (d) Police clearance will be obtained for one adult.

Police clearance will be requested of staff who lived and worked outside of Ireland for longer than six months over the age of eighteen years before commencing employment in the preschool service.

- (4) Staff members will now work in the school age service and some staff have ceased employment.
- Adult 1. This staff member has enrolled on a Fetac Level 5 childcare course and is working with school-age children for the future.
- Adult 2. This staff member is awaiting a response from a training college to certify childcare training. This staff member will no longer be working in the preschool service.
- Adult 3. This staff member has certificate of components only. This adult will work as an administrator going forward.
- Adult 4. This staff member is working with the school-age children full-time now and will not provide relief in The preschool service going forward.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

- (2)(a)(b) A copy of the written validated reference for one staff member was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.
- (d) No evidence submitted.
- (4) No evidence submitted.

### **Summary Comment**

- (2)(a)(b) The action as stated by the registered provider has addressed this non-compliance.
- (d) The non-compliance identified under point (d) remains outstanding as the outstanding police vetting for one adult has not been obtained and submitted for approval.
- (4) It is acknowledged that 1 of the 4 staff no longer works in the service and 2 staff now work in the school age part of the service. Evidence of qualification for 1 staff who continues to work with the preschool children remains outstanding. Evidence of enrolment to complete childcare training as outlined in the registered providers response has not been submitted for any staff.

## 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)(2) On the morning of Day 1 of the inspection, there were 41 preschool children present.

- 1 child was aged 10 months to 1 year,
- 7 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 5 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 28 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were 8 staff directly caring for these children.

The registered provider assisted with the administrative side of the inspection and also provided relief, there was a service chef.

In the afternoon, of the inspection, there were 23 preschool children present.

- 1 child was aged between 10 months to 1 year,
- 8 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 2 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 12 children were aged between 3 to 6 years.

There were 8 staff, directly caring for and supervising these children.

In the afternoon, there was a school aged programme with 12 children and 2 staff members designated to their care.

### Non-Compliance Information

(8)(a) The registered provider informed the inspectors that she did not maintain a daily roster in the pre-school service. The early years inspectors were unable to assess whether there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

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

On the 16/06/2023 and the 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

A weekly roster will be commenced immediately and will highlight that two staff members are on duty at all times during the operation of the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

A weekly roster has been submitted to highlight the staff members on duty at all times during the operation of the service.

### Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted has been reviewed. The non-compliance identified under Regulation (8) (a) has been adequately addressed.

## 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:*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

### Non-Compliance Information

(i) Details of staff rosters were not available. There was no record available to show staff attendance, absences, meal/ break times and relief cover in conjunction with the children's attendance in each playroom.

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

On the 16/06/2023, 23/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The preschool will commence a daily roster that will show break times and relief cover.

Staff attendance records will be maintained on a childcare application where childcare staff will have to sign in and out.

## Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of a complete staff roster which details on a daily basis full name of each staff, time of arrival and time of departure, absence, times of meal/break times and who provides relief was submitted.

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 (i) has been adequately addressed.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

*A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

## Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available on the notice board and available for parents, guardians, employees, unpaid workers, contractors, and authorised persons.

### 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

(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

##### Basic Needs

(1)(a)(b)

- The service had a healthy eating policy to view on request.
- In the morning and afternoon, the children attending on a part time or full day care had their snacks provided by the service which included cheese, yogurt, crackers, fruit, ham sandwiches with milk or water to drink.
- In the morning, the children attending on a sessional basis had their snacks provided by parents and guardians which included cheese, ham, crackers, croissants, fruit, and yogurts.
- For children attending full day care, or part time the dinner was prepared, cooked, and stored on site by a designated chef in the service kitchen. Chicken rice and vegetables was the main meal of the day.
- The children were given sufficient time to eat in an unhurried manner and the older children sat at age-appropriate low-level chairs and tables at their sack and mealtimes.
- All children had access to a water station on a low table, which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty and these children were observed to self-serve on a regular basis.
- Eleven children from the Toddler and Playgroup playroom, wore nappies and had their nappies changed on a regular basis, in a timely manner, in the designated nappy changing area.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development. On the day of inspection, the children ate together for their snacks and main meals and had the freedom of movement within their respective playroom.
- All children had the opportunity to play outside for physical exercise and movement.

- There was a cosy area within each of the playrooms with child sized couches provided which could be adapted as a rest area for the children to rest or opt out of activities if they so wished.
- Staff responded to infants in a timely and appropriate way when they cried or became upset.
- On the days of inspection, the children from the Big playroom and the Blue playroom were observed at circle time listening to stories.
- The children were observed playing in the playhouse, running, chasing, playing ball, and pedalling in foot-controlled cars in the outdoor play areas.
- The children from the Toddler playroom were observed making shapes with play dough, at free play and in the ball pool. The children were observed playing outside, running, and exploring.
- The children from the Playgroup playroom were observed at free play and predominately in the outdoor play area. The children were observed running, chasing, playing ball, climbing on the dome and pedalling tricycles in the outdoor play areas.

### Supporting Relationships

- Information was provided to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times and via the childcare app or by phone.
- The children's art and craft materials were collated and given to parents and guardians on a seasonal basis. Themes and observations were stored in the childcare app.
- Topics of interest were at children's eye level for example family photographs and artwork.

### Physical and Material Environment

- There was a selection of child sized seating and low tables /counter tops for tabletop activities.
- There was child size soft seating in the form couches, and foam mats where children could rest or relax in the playrooms.
- The rear outdoor play area was secure by a boundary wall and covered with impact absorbing surface and green grass. Since the last inspection, an all-weather sheltered area covered with a canopy had been erected.
- The outdoor play areas to the rear and side of the premises were sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service. Items included a tree house, planter boxes, a goal post, balls, tricycles, a climbing dome, seating, a bench blocks, cars trucks, a bug hotel and sand basin with utensils, buckets, shovels, and rakes.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Physical and Material Environment

1. In each playroom dress up clothing was stored in a plastic container which made it difficult for the children to choose and freely access.
2. There was limited equipment, utensils available and accessible for children to play with in the home corner in each of the playrooms or the mud kitchen in the outdoor play area.

(1) (b)

3. The privacy and dignity of a child having a nappy change was not maintained. The inspectors observed a child being easily viewed by another child or passer-by while having their nappy changed through the window in the outdoor play area.
4. The privacy and dignity of a child using the sanitary area adjacent to the Blue room was not preserved as the door remained open throughout the inspection the inspectors observed on two occasions three children pulling up their under clothes after using the toilet.

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

On the 2/06/2023, 16/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

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

19 (1)(a)

1. Hangers will be used to hang up the dress up clothing and costumes, this will allow the children to clearly see what is available.
2. Play equipment and utensils were purchased for the home corners in each playroom and the mud kitchen in the outdoor play area.

19 (1) (b)

3. A frosted covering has been placed on the window of the designated nappy changing area to preserve the dignity and privacy of a child having their nappy changed. The windows will remain covered from now on.
4. The sanitary door adjacent to the Blue room will remain closed from now on. The children will be supervised more frequently, and the door will be monitored by staff members.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

19 (1)(a)

1. A photograph was submitted.
2. A purchase receipt for play materials and utensils.
3. A picture was submitted.

4. No evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

The information as stated by the registered provider and evidence submitted and has addressed the requirements of (1) (a) and(b) of regulation 19.

## 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 into the pre-school was secure to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play areas were secured by boundary walls and gates so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area or children could not exit unsupervised.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were stored inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- Blinds cords were secured by fasteners and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

#### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- An airtight sealable bin was available for the disposal of used nappies in the nappy changing area.
- Staff involved in the serving of food and nappy changing used disposal aprons and gloves when nappy changing.

#### Safe Sleep:

- The temperature of the sleep room was maintained within normal limits 16-20° C.
- Six cots and eight stackable beds were available for sleep provision.
- Older children had designated relaxation, chill out time.

- The service had safe and comfortable spaces for the younger toddlers to lie, roll, creep, crawl, pull themselves up, explore and to be protected from children who were more mobile.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. No evidence was provided of daily risk assessments in the indoor or outdoor areas of the service. The registered provider informed the inspectors that there are no active records being maintained in the service.
2. The round blue table in the outdoor play area was cracked and broken posing a risk of injury to children.
3. There was a gap in the impact absorbing surface in the outdoor play area that required maintenance and repair as it posed a risk of injury to children and staff.
4. The doors into the kitchen, staff room, office, and adult only sanitary rooms had no system of security and were accessible to the preschool children, posing a safety risk to preschool children. Staff belongings and bags were accessible to children in these areas.
5. Trailing leads from voice command speakers were observed in each playroom which posed a risk of tripping and strangulation.
6. The outdoor storage shed with a lawn mower, play equipment and materials was not secured which posed safety risk to the preschool children.
7. The children's individual suncreams were inconsistently labelled and difficult to identify who owned them in each playroom posing a risk to the children.
8. A child was observed eating popcorn at approx. 10.30hrs in the Big playroom this posed a potential risk for choking and in variance with the service policy on healthy eating.

#### Infection Control:

9. The nappy changing procedure was in variance with the nappy changing policy. Staff were observed to bring children to another sanitary area to wash their hands when a sink was available in the nappy changing area. This posed a risk of cross infection.
10. The children's barrier creams were not labelled correctly with each individual child's name. This posed a risk of cross infection.
11. Used laundry were stored in an unsealed laundry basket in the designated sleep room posing a risk of cross infection.
12. Two unlabelled soothers were left exposed on a unit in the designated sleep room posing a risk of cross infection.

13. The foot pedalled waste bin in the Playgroup playroom and children's sanitary areas were broken. The waste bins in each playroom were unlidded resulting in children having potential access to waste from open bins.

### Safe Sleep:

14. In variance with the service sleep policy. There was no documented evidence of 10 min sleep check records being carried out by staff on sleeping children. It was noted on the childcare application that only the times a child went to sleep and woke was recorded.
15. In variance with the service sleep policy, it was observed at approx. 10.00 hrs a sleeping child under the age of 18 months was unsupervised with a milk bottle in the cot. This posed a risk to the sleeping child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

On the 16/06/2023, 23/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Risk assessments have commenced in the service. Staff have been advised to carry out daily risk assessments for the indoor and outdoor environment.
2. The broken round blue table has been disposed of from the outdoor play area. The staff have been advised to record daily risk assessments and any broken play equipment will be removed immediately.
3. The gap in the impact absorbing surface in the outdoor play area has been repaired and maintained.
4. A gate has been placed at the entrance to the kitchen and staff room, the office and the staff only sanitary area doors have been closed and staff have been reminded to keep them closed.
5. Voice command speakers have been mounted into a device on the walls, no leads are required. Command hook clips have been used to secure any trailing leads in the playrooms.
6. The shed door has been secured with a locking system.
7. The children's individual suncreams are now consistently labelled to safely identify each one.
8. Parents have been informed that popcorn is not permitted in preschool.

#### Infection Control:

1. Children having their nappies changed will have their hands washed in the designated nappy changing area going forward.
2. The children's barrier creams will be individually labelled and stored safely with the named child s belonging.

3. The laundry basket was replaced with a sealed lid. Unsealed laundry baskets will not be used in the future to reduce the risk of cross infection.
4. All soothers have been labelled now. The soothers will be consistently labelled going forward.
5. All broken or uncovered bins have been replaced with foot pedaled lidded bins.

### Safe Sleep:

14. Sleep check records (10 min checks) are now accurately recorded and maintained on the childcare application each time a sleeping child is checked as per the service safe sleep policy.
15. Childrens milk bottles are not permitted in the cot while a child is sleeping. All staff have been advised by the registered provider as per the service Safe Sleep policy and guidelines.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A copy of daily indoor and outdoor risk assessments and a copy of the risk management policy was submitted.
2. No evidence submitted.
3. A picture of the fixed gap in the impact absorbing surface in the outdoor area
4. A picture of the gate at the kitchen and staff room entrance area. A picture of the secure adult sanitary area.
5. A picture was submitted.
6. A copy of a purchase receipt.
7. A picture of the labelled suncreams
8. A copy of a letter issued to parents and a copy of the service healthy eating policy.

#### Infection Control:

9. A copy of the points discussed at the staff one to one meeting with the registered provider was submitted.
10. A picture of the individual labelled barrier creams.
11. A picture of the lidded laundry basket
12. A picture of the individually labelled soothers.
13. A purchase receipt was submitted.

#### Safe Sleep:

14. A copy of the new handwritten sleep check records.
15. A copy of the points discussed with at a staff one to one meeting with the registered provider dated 5/6/2023 was submitted.

### Summary Comment

The information submitted for points 1 to 15 have been accepted by the early years inspectors and regulatory compliance has been achieved in relation to these points in Regulation 23.

### 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 person trained in first aid was available on the premises during the inspection.

(2)(a) There were a first aid boxes with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in conspicuous position in the playrooms.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) While it is acknowledged that that two staff were trained as first aid responders (FAR ), the inspection team could not determine if a person trained in first aid was on the premises during the hours of operation, at all times as there was no staff roster available.

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

On the 16/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

25(1) There will always be a staff member with up to date first aid training on duty in the preschool.

A staff roster will highlight the staff with first aid training who are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation.

### Supporting documentation submitted

A detailed roster was submitted.

### Summary Comment

The information and evidence meets the regulatory requirements of this regulation.

## 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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 13/04/ 2023.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 4/10/2022.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 3/05/2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

## 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 for 48 children on a full day care basis with an expiry date of 27.03.2024.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
1. There was no evidence that the mechanical ventilation system was operating effectively in the children's sanitary area adjacent to the Big playroom. A malodour was present in the room.
- (d)
2. There were no cleaning records available or displayed to evidence what the cleaning procedure was, when it took place or who was responsible. The registered provider stated that cleaning took place each evening when the service was closed.
  3.
    - There was mould and mildew visible on the windows, doors, and walls throughout the building.
    - The windows in the designated sleep room, hallway, nappy changing area, Playgroup and Blue playroom needed cleaning.
    - The designated sleep room four cushions were soiled with mould, mildew, and visible stains these were located on the windowsill beside the sleeping children.
    - No evidence was provided to demonstrate active cleaning and disinfecting of toys, equipment, materials, tabletops, furniture, soft covering, floors, bed linen, sanitary areas, and playrooms.
    - Outdoor play equipment was not maintained in a clean hygienic manner which may pose as a risk of cross infection
  4. The premises was maintained in a poor state of repair.
    - The walls, skirting boards and wooden windows throughout the premises were flaking paint, and in a state of disrepair.
    - The floor covering in the adult sanitary area was removed and not replaced. It was acknowledged by the registered provider that the service had a recent water leak.
    - The walls in the outdoor play area had flaking paint and moss growing on it, they needed maintenance and repair.
    - The outdoor play area had protruding weeds, and the impact absorbing surface needed cleaning and power washing.

- There was a broken water down pipe in the outdoor play area in need of maintenance and repair.
  - There was an absent door handle on the designated sleep room door adjacent to the Toddler playroom.
  - There was an unsecured handle on the cistern of a toilet in the children's sanitary area adjacent to the Blue playroom.
5. There were two stained, soiled and torn mattress covers, cushions and red seating in the Big playroom posing a risk of cross infection.
  6. There were green covers on the soft seating and cushions which were soiled in the Blue playroom posing a risk of cross infection.
  7. There were two foldable wipeable mats stained and soiled in use in the outdoor play area posing a risk of cross infection.

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

On the 2/06/2023, 16/06/2023 and 7/07/2023 the registered provider advised of the following.

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (c)
1. A professional person has carried out the repair and maintenance of the ventilation system on 8/07/2023.
- (d)
2. The staff and cleaner will record and maintain cleaning records in the service.
    - The window frames were immediately cleaned and repainted.
    - A window cleaner has been contacted to clean the windows on a regular basis.
    - The four cushions in the designated sleep room were immediately removed.
    - The staff and cleaner will record and maintain cleaning records each day and evening to show that the toys, equipment, materials, tabletops, furniture, soft coverings, floors, bedlinen, sanitary areas and playrooms are cleaned regularly.
    - The staff members will record and maintain handwritten cleaning records going forward.
    - The outdoor play equipment was cleaned, and power hosed. Cleaning records will be recorded and maintained regularly.
  3.
    - The walls and skirting boards will be repainted by a professional the expected completion date is the end of July 2023.
    - The landlord has been contacted about replacing the floor in the staff sanitary area which was taken up

to fix a recent leak the expected completion date for works is the end of July 2023.

- The outdoor walls have been power washed. Painting is completed.
  - The outdoor ground has been power washed and weeds have been removed.
  - The outdoor water downpipe has been safely secured.
  - The designated sleep room door handle has been renewed.
4. A plumber has tightened the handle.
- The covers and cushions have been removed and replaced.
5. New cushion covers have been purchased, the two mattress covers have been replaced and the red seat cover in the Big room has been replaced.
6. The cushion covers will be changed regularly; these will be added to the weekly cleaning rota of the service.
7. The two foldable mats in the outdoor play area were removed. The registered provider states she aims to monitor equipment and materials more often.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(c)

1. An email from the landlord with the cost of works carried out to repair the ventilation system.

(d)

2.
  - Pictures of the windows cleaned and painted.
  - Pictures of the outdoor balance beam and windows cleaned.
  - Pictures of the cleaned and painted windows in the designated sleep room.
  - A copy of the receipt for the cleaning company who cleaned the outdoor windows.
  - Pictures of the cleaned walls in the sanitary areas and nappy changing area.
3. A photograph was submitted.
4. Photographs were submitted.
5. A copy of the cleaning checklists have been submitted.
6. A copy of the cleaning records has been submitted.

7. No evidence submitted.

#### Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliances identified.