

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018KE513
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	KARE Pre-School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Curragh Grange House, Green Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	R56 F886
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Deirdre Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	29/11/2023
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<b>Date 2 of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children: (Day 2)</b>	AM	10	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91X38W.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	T. Duignan, Day 1 and Day 2.
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

KARE pre-school service was established in 2018 as a non-profit service for pre-school children with complex health needs aged 2 to 6 years.

The service provides a morning sessional childcare and education service to pre-school children Monday to Friday. Each child attending the pre-school service has a multidisciplinary care plan which outlines each child's health, care and learning requirements.

The service is located in an adapted building within the grounds of Curragh Grange House on the outskirts of Newbridge. Parking and set down facilities are available.

There are two ground floor pre-school rooms, a sensory room, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation. One pre-school room, sanitary accommodation, a staff room, office and storage facilities are provided on the first floor.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly with the children and was not present on the days of the inspection. Eight adults were present on the day of the inspection including the person in charge. The adults who are employed to work in the service have a nursing or child care qualifications.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

On day one of the inspection the children were not present as they were at hydrotherapy in Naas. The children were present on day 2 of the inspection.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 1 and 2 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 a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The named person in charge remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service as evidenced by the manager, supervisors and staff members on duty. The staff were familiar with the lines of accountability and their roles and responsibilities. Ten staff records were reviewed.

(2)

(a) Two written and verified past employer references were available in respect of six adults and one written and verified past employer references was available in respect of three adults whose records were reviewed.

(b) Two written and verified reference from a reputable source other than a past employer was available in respect of one adult and one written and verified references from a reputable source was available in respect of three adults whose records were reviewed

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults whose records were reviewed.

(d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Seven adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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 ten children attending the service being supervised directly by seven adults.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the morning.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

The person in charge confirmed that all parents receive a parent's handbook prior to their child commencing in the service as part of the enrolment process. The handbook was reviewed and included the information as outlined above.

### 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-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(c) The registered provider ensured that a copy of the regulations was available in the service and was open to inspection on the premises when requested by an authorised person.

## 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 service had a healthy eating policy in place. Each child had a nutrition plan as part of their individualised care plan.

Some children required to be placed in specialised equipment to support them while they were being fed their food by the adults caring for them. Other children required specialised feeding via nasogastric, peg or Jpeg feeding tubes. A fluid balance record was maintained for the children.

Children with feeding issues were provided with feeding prompts to introduce meal time prior to any food being offered. The staff members caring for the children ensured that meal times were sociable and relaxed.

## 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:

A risk management policy was in place in the service. The entrance door to the service was secured and controlled by staff members to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access. The toys and equipment observed were in good condition and working order. Cleaning agents and equipment was stored out of reach of the children.

The staff completed indoor and outdoor environmental risk assessments daily and there was a system in place to manage maintenance issues when they arose.

Each child had risk assessment as part of their care planning based on their individual needs. This included manual handling requirements as some children required specialised equipment, a personal evacuation plan for each child and indoor and outdoor activities.

## **Infection Control:**

There was an infection control policy in place. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used tissues. Nappy changing facilities were available and included electrical adjustable height nappy changing table.

Each child had an intimate and personal care plan in place, and this included personal hygiene, hand washing and nappy changing.

Written cleaning schedules were maintained for room environments which was observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

## **Administration of Medication:**

Each child had a medication plan with medication Kardex. Medication was not given at the time of the inspection, written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service.

## **Safe Sleep:**

A sensory room provided a restful space for any child requiring rest or needing to take a break from activities.

## **Fire Safety:**

Fire drills were carried out in the service on a monthly basis. The staff members were familiar with the fire evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed. Each child attending the service had a personal evacuation plan in the event of a fire or other emergency.

## **Outing:**

There was an outings policy was in place.

### 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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
    - (i) pre-school child attending the service,
    - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,
    - (iii) an employee, or
    - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and
  - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained for the pre-school rooms inspected.
- (2) Not applicable as this was not a drop-in service.
- (3) (a),(b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The registered provider confirmed that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

### 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 in the service were observed being closely supervised at all times throughout the inspection.