

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2018WX503
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Clogogue Play and Learn
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	C/O Clogogue National School, Clogogue, Camolin, Co. Wexford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Marian Power, Kayleigh Power
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/09/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	29	PM	22
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Ryan
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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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Clogogue Play and Learn is a privately operated early years service. It offers a play-based curriculum for children aged 6 months to 6 years of age. The service operates from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The early years service is located in the old national school in Clogogue, a rural village. The service consists of three playrooms, a sleep room, sanitary accommodation, indoor and outdoor play areas. The aim of the service is to “providing a safe, warm, stimulating age-appropriate environment, where all children are encouraged to learn, grow and actively explore.

### Staffing

There were eight staff on the premises on the day of inspection. All eight were working directly with the children. The registered provider was on the premises on the day of inspection and works directly with the children. All staff held the minimum of level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).

### 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of the Child (1) (a),

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,

Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4), and Regulation 28 Insurance.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes. The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

There was a designated person in charge on the premises at all times. The staff files for 10 staff members were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

Validated references for all staff were kept in each individual's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff that had lived outside the state for more than six consecutive months.

(4)

Certificate of qualifications for all staff members working directly with the early years children was available on file.

## 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)

Throughout the period of the inspection there were adequate numbers of staff working directly with the children attending the service.

(2)

During the morning there were 29 children being directly cared for by 8 staff. During the afternoon there were 22 children being directly cared for by 6 staff, ensuring there were adequate staff available to work with the children and to maintain staff/child ratios at all times.

The registered provider worked directly with the children in the rooms on the day of inspection.

### 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

(1)(a) The following observations and discussions with staff reflected the children's experience within the service focusing on the children's learning, development and wellbeing on the day of inspection:

Children in the Early Childcare Care and Education (ECCE) room were engaged and chatting with the staff during the day. The atmosphere was relaxed and fun, with laughter heard during the day. The staff sat with the children and engaged in a variety of activities during the day including rotating between different tabletop activities, reading stories and outdoor play. The children were observed to use the toilet independently, with staff encouraging hand washing and giving assistance with toileting as needed. The staff helped to wash their hands before eating and chatted at the table while getting ready to eat.

Children in the wobbler room enjoyed free play during the morning and time outside during the morning and afternoon. Children's sleep needs were led by the children, with staff observed to place children to sleep when they showed signs of tiredness. In the baby room, the atmosphere was relaxed and calm. The staff were observed down, engaging with the children at their level, playing on the floor. A child who was became upset when she banged her hand on a toy, was comforted and reassured.

Staff kept a detailed plan of how the children liked to be settled to sleep and daily routines. Children's nappies were changed regularly throughout the day and at other times when required. Nappy changing was observed by the inspector. Staff were observed talking to the children while changing their nappies. The staff talked with parents at drop off and collection times and used individual communication books to provide more detailed daily updates.

### 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 to the service was secured at all times during the inspection to prevent children exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons gaining access. Storage facilities were inaccessible to the children and all cleaning agents, cleaning equipment and liquid hand soap were securely out of reach.

##### Infection Control:

The service was clean and well maintained, with cleaning schedules signed daily. The staff informed the inspector how they managed the cleaning of mouthing toys and sterilising of soothers.

##### Safe Sleep:

The service had a safe sleep policy and designated sleep room with cots for children under two years of age and stackable beds for children over two years of age. Staff were observed to settle children to sleep in the cots and beds in the sleep room during the day when they showed signs of sleep or tiredness. There was documented evidence in the service, that the sleeping children's colour, position and breathing were physically checked and recorded every 10 minutes as per safe sleep guidelines.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Flexes from the toaster and kettle were trailing in the baby room and accessible to babies and young children.
2. An area at the end of the outdoor garden that was unsuitable for children and required maintenance was accessible to children.

##### Infection Control:

Handwashing practices observed were inconsistent with good hand hygiene: For example:

3. Babies and young children did not have their hands washed after nappy changes.
4. There were no disposable hand towels available in the baby room for effective hand hygiene.
5. There was no hot water available for effective hand hygiene during the day.
6. Formula bottles brought to the service were not prepared in line with the safe food guidance.
7. Two baby bouncers were worn and stained which posed as risk of cross infection as they cannot be adequately cleaned.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### **Corrective & Preventive Action:**

1. The flexes have been removed from the baby room. An electrician has been consulted to install extra sockets.
2. The area at the end of the garden is no longer in use and has been fenced off. A plan to further develop the area is planned for the spring.
3. The infection control policy was given to staff. Handwashing practices will be monitored by management and infection control discussed at staff meetings.
4. Staff members now have a check list on their cleaning sheet reminding them to replace hand tissue, toilet tissue. Random inspections of the changing and bathroom areas will take place to make sure all areas of hygiene are being met.
5. Two staff members are now assigned to make sure the immersion is on daily, so the provision of hot water is available to all children in our care.
6. All formula bottles brought to our service will now arrive prepared. Our policy has been updated to reflect the safe food guidelines. Parents were notified of this change immediately.
7. The bouncers were immediately removed. Staff have been reminded that any items needing replacement should be reported to management.

### **Evidence Submitted:**

Nappy changing and toileting policy, photographs of the fenced off area in the outdoor area.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective actions have been accepted to address the non-compliance.

### 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)

There were staff trained in first aid for children available to the children attending the early years service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises and was available for use.

### 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 firefighting 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)

Monthly fire drills were completed in the service. The last fire drill was carried out on 25 August 2023.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were serviced. The last maintenance carried out in the service was recorded as having taken place in April and August 2023.

(4)  
There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate that insurance was in place.