

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2020CC005			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Superstars Pre school Ltd			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Gaggin Community Hall, Gaggin, Bandon, Co. Cork			
<b>Eircode:</b>	P72DP38			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Noelle Harrington			
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	n/a

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	V. McCarthy
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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## Description of service

Superstars Preschool Ltd. is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. The service caters for children aged 2 years and 8 months upwards and provides a morning service daily. The service operates out of Gaggin Community Hall which is located in a rural area. There are toilet facilities for children's use situated beside the hall room and there is an enclosed designated outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises for outdoor play activities.

## Staffing

There are 2 adults attached to the service including the registered provider who is service based. Each of the 2 adults work directly with children and each has a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of 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/ 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.

### Additional Information

Unauthorised access on to the premises was not prevented as a door leading from the car park directly into the Hall room was not secured. Therefore, an Immediate Action Notice (IAN) was issued during the inspection. The registered provider responded to the IAN on the 05 December 2023 stating that the issue had been fully resolved.

### Acknowledgements

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) The service had a named person in charge and a deputy that could deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider who was the person in charge was on duty when the inspector arrived at the premises and remained on duty for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
- (a)(b) There were 4 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 2 adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 2 adults.
- (d) Not applicable as no adult had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than 6 months.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of the 2 adults.

### 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)  
The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults always working directly with the children.
- (3)  
On the morning of the inspection there were 2 adults in attendance with 14 early years children. The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained.

### 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:*
- (a) name, position, qualification & experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)  
(a) A record of name and position was displayed on the premises in respect of the 2 adults. A curriculum vitae record was available on file in respect of 1 adult.
- (k) The service used a designated book, with templates containing all required details, for the recording of any accidents, injuries and incidents that may occur at the premises. During the inspection, the inspector assessed that no records regarding incidents and injuries were available on file for the year 2023 so far.

The registered provider informed the inspector that this group of children were an exceptional quiet gentle group and that there was a lot of extra room in the large hall room that reduced the risk of collisions between the children.

## Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(a) A curriculum vitae record was not available on file in respect of the second adult.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The registered provider submitted a Corrective Action and Preventive Action (CAPA) form on 27 December 2023 informing the inspectorate that a curriculum vitae record was obtained and was now available on file in respect of the second adult and that in future the registered provider will assess all adult's records annually.

### Supporting documentation submitted

1. A copy of the outstanding curriculum vitae record was submitted to the inspectorate on 09 January 2024.

## Summary Comment

The documentation submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliance was reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## 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

##### Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating, after toileting, messy play and outdoor play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. The water temperature was recorded at 24.3°C during the inspection.
- Crockery was available to the children during their mid-morning snack break to prevent cross contamination.
- The children's individual water bottles were stored in either the fridge or on a low shelf whichever the children preferred.
- A fridge was available in the Hall room for the storage and safe management of the children's perishable food.
- The children's bags, coats and personal belongings were stored on wall hooks provided inside the entrance door to the Hall room.
- Paper tissues were available on a low table to facilitate the children in attending to their own respiratory hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available throughout the premises for the safe disposal of used tissues and paper towels.
- A detailed cleaning programme was in place and daily and weekly records were available for review by the inspector.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Unauthorised access onto the premises was not prevented as demonstrated by the early years inspector being able to walk easily into the Hall room using the door closes to the car park. An Immediate Action Notice (IAN) in respect of safety was issued to the registered provider during the inspection.
2. The door leading into the kitchen was not to secured to prevent access by an unsupervised child. It was noted that there were hazards that could be accessible to children such as cleaning agents stored in a low press and 3 lots of adult chairs stacked high that posed as a potential tip over hazard.
3. The door that opened to the stairwell leading up to the stage in the hall was not secured and posed as a potential fall injury if accessed by an unsupervised child.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The registered provider addressed the safety issue regarding the unsecured door leading from the outside into the Hall room on the 05 December 2023 immediately once it was brought to her attention. A response submitted to the inspectorate on 05 December 2023 stated that a new procedure had been developed to ensure that unauthorised access onto the premises would be prevented and that the procedure would be adhered to daily by the adults. The registered provider detailed in her written response dated 09 January 2024 that a sensor alarm had also been fitted to this door leading from the car park into the Hall room.
2. The registered provider informed the inspectorate on 27 December 2023 that a sensor alarm had been fitted to the kitchen door so that adults would be alerted should the kitchen door be opened by an unsupervised child.
3. The registered provider informed the inspectorate on 09 January 2024 that a sensor alarm had been fitted to the stage door so that the adults would be alerted should this door be opened by an unsupervised child.

### Supporting documentation submitted

1. A written response from the registered provider was furnished to the inspectorate on the day of the inspection detailing the procedure to be adhered to in future by the adults to ensure that unauthorised access onto the premises will be prevented. Additionally, the registered provider submitted to the inspectorate on 09 January 2024 a photograph of the sensor alarm that had been fitted to this door and a copy of the procedure to be adhered to by the adults to prevent unauthorised access onto the premises.
2. 3. The registered provider submitted to the inspectorate on 09 January 2024 photographs of sensor alarms that had been fitted to the door leading to the stage and the door leading into the kitchen.

### Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliances were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## 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 First Aid Response (FAR) certificates available on file to demonstrate that each of the 2 adults had up to date FAR training.
- (2)  
(a) The first aid box was stored on a high shelf out of children's reach.  
(b) The first aid box was always available on the premises.

## Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) The first aid box was not fully equipped and did not contain a supply of aseptic wipes, eye bandages or an adequate quantity of small dressings.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)

The registered provider stated in her response dated 27 December 2023 that the outstanding materials had been purchased and therefore the first aid box was fully equipped. A checklist had been included in the first aid box and going forward the registered provider would ensure that the contents of the first aid box are checked monthly.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a)

A copy of the first aid checklist that was included in the first aid box and a photograph of the newly purchased aseptic wipes, eye bandages and small dressings were submitted to the inspectorate on 09 January 2024.

## Summary Comment

The documentation and photographs submitted by the registered provider relating to the non-compliance were reviewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements.

## 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) There were records available regarding all monthly fire drills carried out at the service. The last fire drill was carried out on 06 November 2023.
- (b) There were records to demonstrate that the fire extinguishers and wired smoke alarm were serviced during August 2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care room.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

(e) There were an adequate number of toilets and wash hand basins available on the premises. There were 2 toilet areas beside the Hall room for use by the 22 early years children. There were 2 toilet cubicles and 1 wash hand basin in 1 of the toilet areas and 1 toilet and 1 wash hand basin in the second toilet area. There was 1 toilet and wash hand basin for adult's use positioned off the main foyer to the Hall room. Each wash hand basin was provided with liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water for hand washing. The water temperature was recorded at 24.3°C. The toilet areas were each provided with an openable window to assist ventilation as required.