

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2020DY005		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Precious Children Daycare		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	8 St. Mary's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 FE4F		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Caroline Cummins		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/10/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM 19
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Sarah Quigley & Rosemary Brien		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### Description of service

Precious Children Daycare is one of two privately owned services run by the registered provider which was established in 2020. The service is registered to provide part-time care to children aged 2-6 years and operates an Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme from 9:00 – 12:00 on a school calendar basis. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum and the service is registered to operate from 09:00 to 14:00 each weekday. A facility for school aged children is also provided on the premises outside of the opening hours of the preschool.

Precious Children Daycare is located in an urban area of Crumlin, Dublin 12 and operates from a ground floor purposely adapted commercial unit. The service consists of three care rooms, a kitchen, a school age care activity room, and sanitary accommodation. The service has 2 fully enclosed outdoor play areas located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 4 staff members who work directly with the children on a daily basis. The registered provider works intermittently in the service. On the day of inspection, 4 staff members were present including the designated person in charge.

### 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/ information and records/ safety*. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 19, 23, and 24. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to review documentation to assess compliance under regulation 15(1).

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

*(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

Documentation was assessed for all 4 staff members employed to work in the service and the registered provider.

The following records were available for the 5 adults;

- (2)
- (a) (b)  
Verified references were available from two sources for the 5 adults.
  - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the 5 adults.
  - (d) International police vetting was available for 3 of the adults who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (4) There was evidence that each of the 5 adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed 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.*

*(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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 21 children present in the service being supervised by 4 adults during the inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
A sample of 10 records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspectors to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that 9 of the records detailed all of the required information outlined under Regulation 15(1). One record detailed the required information under points (a) to (g), and (i).

#### Non-Compliance Information

One record reviewed did not contain a record of immunisations received by the child as required under Regulation 15(1) point (h).

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

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

The service have the immunisation information from the concerned parent and have updated the child record form. This issue was addressed in the staff meeting and all the staff agreed that a double check of all the child record forms will occur.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

## Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has 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-*

*(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

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place during the inspection. Staff interacted warmly with the children when assisting with personal care. The children were all afforded the opportunity to play outdoors during the inspection and were dressed appropriate to the weather with light jumpers and jackets. Younger children's nappies were changed routinely and when required during the inspection and older children accessed the toilets independently, with assistance being provided from staff members where required.

The care rooms were all equipped with designated cosy areas where children could rest or take time away from the group if desired. No child required a sleep on the day of inspection, however low-level stackable beds and suitable bed linen were available if required.

Staff stated lunch is provided daily by the parents/guardians of the children in attendance and a snack is provided daily by the service for children attending on a part time basis. Mealtimes were observed to be relaxed and sociable. Children were all encouraged to assist in preparing for lunch time, handing out place mats, lunch boxes, and drinks. Children were supported to clean their hands and faces at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.

Staff comforted children promptly when they became upset and were observed to be kind and engaged during interactions observed with the children. The routine in the service was observed to be child-led and children were content and engaged in play and activities throughout the inspection. Staff detailed how daily information is shared with parents daily during interactions at drop off and collection times.

## 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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

#### General Safety:

The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

#### Infection Control:

Staff stated an infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and before lunch. Staff were observed to carry out consistent hand washing and sanitising as appropriate.

#### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors. Documentation was available to record such administration if required, a sample of this documentation was reviewed by the inspectors and was appropriate.

#### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The wooden frame of a tool bench in the Sunflowers room was cracked, exposing splintered wood and sharp edges posing a risk of injury to a child.

#### Infection Control:

2. The nappy changing practices were at variance with the policy in place in the service and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows:
  - A staff member was observed during two nappy changes re-dressing the child and cleaning down the nappy mat in preparation for the next change wearing the soiled gloves worn during the change.
3. The nappy changing mat and station required a deep clean. A build-up of dirt and debris was noted in the crevices of the mat and the pull-down changing unit and staining was noted on the mat posing a risk of cross contamination.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The wooden frame of a tool bench in the Sunflowers Room which was cracked was removed from the premises. All the toys and tools were checked, and the staff have been asked to record any faults on the risk assessment sheet, inform the risk assessment coordinator to check it, and get it repaired or disposed of.

#### Infection Control:

Nappy changing was addressed with team. The service had a meeting to remember nappy policies and procedures and updated them. The service read through the whole nappy policy and did a demonstration of how to do the nappy. The nappy changing policy will be reviewed in all staff meetings moving forward.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The actions outlined by the registered provider will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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.*
- (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)
- A record in writing was available in the service to evidence that each preschool child in attendance had been checked in and out of the service by a staff member.
- (3)(a)
- A system was in place in the service on the day of inspection to ensure that no persons other than those detailed above under Regulation 24 (3)(a)(i) to (iv) above could enter without prior approval. The entrance door to the service was secured with a lock mechanism whereby any persons entering had to ring a bell and be buzzed in by a staff member.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (3)(b)(4)
- There was no record maintained in writing in the service of any person other than those detailed above under Regulation 24 (3)(a)(i) to (iv) who entered the service. The inspectors were not recorded on arrival to the service and previous records of any persons who entered the service were not available.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

The service have the visitor form in the entrance. This issue was addressed in the staff meeting and all the staff agreed that all visitors must sign in when entering the premises at any given time.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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*

### Compliance Information

(c)  
The temperature of the Sunflowers room was recorded to be 24.6°Celsius on the morning of inspection. The staff member present had the windows open in the care room, however the ventilation was not sufficient enough to reduce the temperature.