

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2020LK004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Temple Og's Pre School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Templeglantine Primary School, Templeglantine East, Templeglantine, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94KC56
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Amanda Mooi
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	12/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Office, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	M Riordan
<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).

Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Temple Óg is a sessional pre-school service located in a standalone premises next door to Templeglantine Primary School in Co. Limerick. The service operates each morning between the hours of 9.15am to 12.15pm, Monday to Friday. The service can cater for a maximum of 22 preschool children at any one time.

The service operates from 1 large well-resourced pre-school room. Sanitary accommodation is located next to the room. An outdoor play area is available to the front and the side of the building. Children have exclusive use of this area each morning.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the owner and the manager of the service. There are 3 additional staff working at the service. Each staff member holds an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education. There is a staff member available at all times who is able to administer first aid if required.

### 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.

### 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) The registered provider was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present, and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were rostered to work at the service each day.

(2)(a) Two written and validated references from past employers were available for 3 of the 4 staff working at the service.

(b) All references were from past employers and references from other reputable sources were not required.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff working at the service. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was not required for any staff member.

(4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5, 6 and 7.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) There was 1 staff employed at the service who did not have any references on file at the time of the inspection. Two written and validated references from past employers are required for all staff working at the service.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) References for the required staff member were received and placed on the staff member's file.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of the required references were forwarded to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified has been adequately addressed.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of the inspection there were 13 pre-school children and 4 adults on the premises. The adult child ratio was correct. Two additional staff was available to offer extra assistance to children who required additional help.

## 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

#### **BASIC NEEDS:**

A healthy eating policy was available at the service and children brought a nutritious snack with them each day to the preschool. All perishable foods were stored in a refrigerator. Children's drinks were stored in their individual bottles in the refrigerator and were available to the children throughout the morning session.

All children were toilet trained and could independently use the bathroom facilities which were located next to the preschool room. A nappy changing facility was available if needed. Tissues and wipes were easily accessible to the children and all waste was disposed of properly in foot, pedal operated, lidded bins. Children's coats and bags were stored in the front hallway. All coat and bag hooks were clearly labeled.

The children enjoyed freedom of movement between the various interest areas in the playroom and in the outdoor playground which was used each day at the service.

### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The preschool operated from a large spacious open plan room. Tables and chairs of appropriate height were located in the center of the room. Children sat at these tables when performing tabletop activities and also when dining at snack time. Low level, open shelving located along each wall of the room provided accessible storage for children's toys and play materials. Toy boxes were clearly labelled to assist children to identify the contents and choose activities independently.

Childrens artwork, educational posters and lots of photographs were displayed on the walls of the room at the children's eye level. Large tuff trays were available in the room to store sensorial material to facilitate messy play opportunities.

The children had daily access to the enclosed outdoor play area at the front of the premises. A supply of bicycles, tricycles and scooters were available to use and all were in good condition. A large storage shed provided a space for the safe storage of all outdoor play equipment. A covered area outside provided a sheltered space for the children to play when raining.

### **Non-Compliance Information**

#### **PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:**

The rest area in the preschool room did not have comfortable seating for children or adults to sit and relax. A space for children to rest away from active play areas in the service must be accessible at all times.

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

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

The registered provider redesigned the rest/relaxation space within the preschool room. A large soft couch and cushions have been added to this area for service.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Photographic evidence of the new rest space within the preschool room were forwarded to the offices of the Early Years Inspectorate.

### **Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified has been adequately addressed.

## 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:

- All internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- All emergency exits and fire doors were clear and unobstructed.
- All toys, furniture and play equipment were in good condition and free from sharp edges or corners.
- No flexes or cables were located within reach of children.
- All window blind cords were secured and made safe on tension hooks.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all staff members. However, vetting disclosures for 1 staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The external front door of the premises was unlocked on the day of inspection. This allowed easy access to members of the public onto the premises unsupervised. All entrance doors should be appropriately secured to ensure only authorised persons can access the premises at any time.

##### Infection Control:

3. The water pressure in the taps at the hand basins in the children's bathrooms was too low to ensure effective and hygienic hand washing for the children. After toilets in this area were flushed, the water pressure to the sinks was reduced to a trickle. To ensure proper hand washing, an adequate supply of thermostatically controlled hot water was required at all wash hand basins at all times.

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

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was received for the staff member who required her garda vetting renewed.

2. A review of the security system at the entrance to the premises has taken place and all the required action to ensure the children are safe and secure in the premises has taken been taken.

**Infection Control:**

3. The water pressure in the taps at the wash hand basin where children wash their hands has been repaired

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

1. A copy of the renewed garda vetting disclosure was forwarded to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate.
2. Details of the locking and security system at all entrance doors to the premises have been submitted.

**Infection Control:**

3. Evidence of the repair works completed at the wash hand basins in the service were forwarded.

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified has been adequately addressed.

**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 28 - Insurance**

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

**Compliance Information**

The registered provider had a current insurance certificate which outlined that insurance was available for 22 preschool children to attend the service. The insurance cover commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 and expired on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared to be of sound and stable structure both internally and externally.
- (b) All outdoors play areas were surrounded by secure high walls and gates where no unauthorised access to or exit from the area was permitted.
- (c) All areas of the premises were well lit by natural light and by artificial light when needed. There was no evidence of mould, mildew, stale smells, stuffiness or condensation. The premises had an adequate heating system and openable windows provided adequate ventilation in all areas of the building.
- (d) The areas outside were all well maintained and routine cleaning schedules were in place for all internal and external areas.
- (e) There were an adequate sanitary facilities available in the building. Nappy changing could be accommodated if required.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d) The paintwork in the bathroom areas was chipped in places and worn. Maintenance work was required in this area of the service.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d) The registered provider has carried out the required maintenance work at the service.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Details of all the works completed on the maintenance at the service were forwarded to the office of the Early Years Inspectorate

#### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified has been adequately addressed.