

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2021DS001

**Name of Service:** Superstars Early Learning and Care

**Address of Service:** 20 Cooleven Green, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

**Eircode:** D22 C6R3

**Name of Registered Provider:** Katarzyna Wlodarska

**Service type:** Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 03/04/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<b>AM</b>	36	<b>PM</b>	19

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla-Child and Family Agency  
Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Co. Dublin  
A96P3Y6

**Inspection undertaken by:** Olivia Quill

**Title:** 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

Superstars Early Learning and Care is registered as a full day care service and a school age service. The service is one of 7 services privately operated by the registered provider. It opens Monday to Friday from 8am to 6.00pm and caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. Three care rooms are provided namely Twinkle Stars, Raising Stars and Shining Stars. An outdoor area is available for the children on the premises. The area is divided into two separate play areas for children.

### Staffing

In total eleven adults are employed in the service. There were nine adults present on the day of inspection including the designated person in charge and cook. The registered provider does not work in the service. The regional manager was present for the feedback meeting.

### 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, records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels

- 15 (1)(a)-(i) Record of a pre-school child
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health, welfare and development of child
- 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- 25 (1) First aid
- 26 (1)(a)(b) and (4) Fire safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (1)(a)-(i).

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, regional manager, 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
- (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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(c) There was evidence of a clear management structure which outlined the roles of authority within the service.

(2) The inspection included a review of all staff files. In total eleven files were inspected. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the twenty-two references that were required, nineteen were available from a past employer and three were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all staff employed in the service. There was evidence to demonstrate Garda vetting had been renewed for ten adults within the three year timeframe as required by the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

(d) Police vetting was available as required for three adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting provided for a fourth adult was not translated and therefore could not be interpreted.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(d) The international vetting has been translated and added to the employee's file. All team members involved have been reminded that this is a required prior to any employee commencing employment in the service.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of translated police vetting.

### Summary Comment

Supporting evidence has been submitted in keeping with the corrective actions stated. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 36 children attending the service being supervised by seven adults on the day of 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 twelve records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

(a) The name and date of birth of each child.

- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

### 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 inspector observed appropriate and suitable care practices within the service. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. A hot meal of beef stew and mashed potato was served for lunch. Mealtime was sociable, children were given time to enjoy their meal together. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating. The weather was nice and children from the Twinkle Star and Raising Star rooms were observed to eat their meal in the outdoor area.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection. Children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions.

Children were engaged in a variety of activities of their choice throughout the morning including making shapes with play dough, building towers, drawing and playing with construction toys. Staff supported children in their learning by encouraging them to talk about the work completed and praising them for their efforts.

The service had a designated sleep time for children who slept and a quiet time for children who did not sleep after dinner. The shining Star room was used as the sleep room. Children were made comfortable for sleep their outer clothing and footwear were removed. Low level bed were provided and the blinds were closed. A staff member remained in the room when the children were sleeping. In the Raising Star room children who wanted to rest were invited to listen to a story while other children who did not want to rest went to the outdoor area to play.

The outdoor area was fully enclosed and divided into two separate areas with a mix of artificial grass, real grass and a paved surface. These areas were well resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment. All children spent time in the outdoor area during the day and were observed to enjoy engaging in physical and imaginary play.

### 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 door to the service and outdoor area was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. The kitchen area and storage facilities were inaccessible to children. Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children. Low level cupboards had child proof locks. No hazards were identified in the outdoor play area.

##### Infection Control:

The environment was clean and staff maintained a written record of daily cleaning completed. Staff were observed cleaning table surfaces prior to lunch. Children washed their hands at regular intervals including after outdoor play, using the toilet and prior to eating. Liquid soap thermostatically controlled warm water and paper

towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to wash their hands at appropriate times. Pedal operated bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas.

### Administration of Medication:

Staff demonstrated an understanding of the appropriate measures to be taken to safeguard children if medication was required. A sample of medication records were reviewed. The forms were completed correctly including the name and dose of the medication given, written parental consent and a second person signature.

### Safe Sleep:

The temperature where young children were sleeping in the Shining Stars room was maintained within the recommended range. Sleeping children were physically monitored and sleep checks were recorded every ten minutes.

### Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosure available for one adult was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

### Infection Control:

2. In the Shining Star room the cover on the child size sofa was torn the foam was exposed and as a result it could not be cleaned effectively for infection control purposes.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The garda vetting for one adult has been submitted for re vetting. The manager has put a system in place to ensure that recurrence does not happen.

#### Infection Control:

2. The sofa was removed until it was fixed, new stitching has been done to ensure infection control is adhered to. Checks of the all sofa has been implemented weekly to prevent reoccurrence.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Written record.

#### Infection Control:

2. Photographic evidence.

### Summary Comment

The Corrective and preventative actions as stated by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1) Staff caring for the children had First aid responder training and they were immediately available at all times on the day of inspection.

### 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 fire fighting 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) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was completed on the 14 March 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated the 02 July 2024 and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated as being completed on the 06 February 2025.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.