

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2021GY008

**Name of Service:** St Columba's Before School and Afterschool Club and Preschool

**Address of Service:** Ballyturn, Gort, Co. Galway

**Eircode:** H91 EVR9

**Name of Registered Provider:** Patricia Lynch

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 08/11/2023

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	6	PM	No.

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate,  
Quality and Regulation Directorate,  
Child and Family Agency,  
Clinical & Administration Building,  
Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway

**Inspection undertaken by:** F Kelly.

**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

This sessional service is located in Ballyturn national school, which is located 6 km from the town of Gort in south Co Galway. The service operates from 9:30am to 12:30pm, Monday to Friday. The service comprised of 1 playroom in the national school and the use of an outdoor sheltered play area and a large outdoor play area to the front and rear of the school.

## Staffing

The registered provider works single handedly in the service.

## 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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19, Health, welfare and development of child.

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 provide 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 available on the day of the inspection and a named person was available to come to the service in the event of an emergency.
- (b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present on the premises.
- (2)(a) Written references from past employers were available for the register provider and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (b) Written references from a source other than the previous employer were available for the registered provider and the person who was available to deputise in the event of an emergency.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and the person who is available in the event of an emergency.
- (d) Police vetting was available as the registered provider had lived outside the State for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) The registered provider held qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*
- (8)(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service.
- (3)  
At 10 .20 am on the day of inspection, the following playroom was in operation.  
Playroom 1, there was 1 adult working with 6 preschools children.
- (8)(c) The registered provider supplied details of a person familiar with the service that was in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service 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-

(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

(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

##### Basic Needs of the Children

- Children could access the toilet at any time during the session and were supported where necessary.
- Water was available to the children and the children were observed getting their own drinks during throughout the session, both indoors and when they were playing in the outdoor areas.
- Healthy eating was promoted within the service as was observed on the day of inspection, children were given enough time to eat and enjoy their snack time without been rushed. Each child had an individual place mat and a name tag with their picture which made it easier for each child to recognise their name.
- Children are provided with labelled individual spaces for their belongings e.g., individual coat hooks for their bags and coats, the children were able to recognise their hooks by their name .
- The staff member was observed handling minor disputes that occurred over sharing toys etc in a sensitive manner, the staff member was observed speaking in a calm voice and explaining and reasoning with the children to an effort to find solutions.
- The staff present demonstrated sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for the children as evidenced in the positive use of language and soft tones when speaking to the children.

##### Supporting Relationships around Children

- The staff member's interactions with the children were positive and caring in their approach to the children. Children were listened to and communicated with in an ongoing basis and regularly praised for their efforts, throughout the session. This was observed when the children were getting ready to go inside following outdoor play. The children took off their wellington boots and put them into a container, they were encouraged to put on their own shoes and the staff member assisted when required, e.g., to help tie shoelaces.

- The staff member operated in partnership with parents. They were spoken to each day at drop off and collection time in relation to how the children had been at the service. This was observed on the day of the inspection. The session finishes each session with activities in the outdoor playroom, the parents were observed picking up their children from this area, the staff member provided feedback to each parent on the activities of the day and how their child engages in the activities.
- Children were supported to engage positively with each other. Children were encouraged to be helpful, take turns, share resources and negotiate solutions when disputes arose.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider supplied evidence that the service was adequately insured. The current insurances expire on the 26/11/2023.