

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022CC004
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Allstars Preschool Ltd
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Morning Star National School, Connolly Road, Ballyphehane, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 R657
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Mary O'Sullivan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22 February 2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Office, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Stokes
<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>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Allstars Preschool Ltd. was established in November 2022 to cater for children aged 2-6 years. It is located in a playroom in Morning Star National School in the suburb of Ballphehane in Cork city. This service is registered to operate a sessional service from 9am to 12 noon daily Monday to Friday. There is one playroom and a large outdoor space available to the children who avail of this service providing a play-based pedagogical approach with an emphasis on the outdoors.

### Staffing

The registered provider is service based and together with a second adult, both work directly with the preschool children and have a major award in Early Childhood care and education at levels 5 and 8 of the QQI framework.

### 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/ safety*. The inspections 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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the *registered provider, deputy person in charge, 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) The service had a named person in charge and a named deputy person in charge.
  - (b) The person in charge was available at the service when the announced inspection commenced.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure in place in this service.
- (2) The relevant files in relation to the registered provider and deputy person in charge were reviewed.
- (a) There was one written and validated references on file from a past employer.
  - (b) There were three written references available from sources other than previous employers, with a satisfactory record of validation.
  - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was in place for both adults.

- (d) Police vetting was required and available for the one adult that had lived outside the jurisdiction.
- (4) A recognised award in Early Childhood Care and Education had been attained by the adult at QQI Levels 5 & 8.

## 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) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

- (1) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.
- (3) The ratio of adults to children was adequate with 2 adults working with 12 children in the playroom.
- (8)(a) Not applicable. This service was not operated singlehandedly, 2 adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

### 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:

- Adults were observed to sit with the children and chat to make the mealtime a social occasion.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop independence regarding personal care, particularly, with hand washing after outdoor play and prior to snack time.
- There was a cosy corner in the playrooms to provide for the children's need for quiet time and relaxation during the morning.
- Children's need for mobility was met with both the indoor and outdoor play area being used on the day of inspection.
- The adults were observed to support the children to interact positively with each other. There was a calm and positive approach to managing behaviour. The adults modelled speaking in low tones and supportive interactions. There was an emphasis on positive engagement and children identifying their feelings. This was linked to a recent theme and was in evidence on the walls with posters and artwork.

##### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The registered provider advised the inspector that the service operated in partnership with parents, with regular emails/texts for sharing information with parents. The registered provider had a notebook for communications with parents.
- The registered provider described that regular observations on the children are maintained each term and these contributed to the emergent curriculum based around the children's expressed interests.
- Parents can ask to see their child's observations according to the registered provider and photographs for parents are regularly displayed on a noticeboard outside the service.
- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children on the day of inspection, with encouragement and praise for specific tasks in a warm and caring manner for example during

preparation for snack, tidy up, transition time from indoors to outdoors etc where nurturing and enthusiastic interactions were observed.

- Team meetings were held every regularly and contribute to the ethos of teamwork evident in the service.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The indoor environment of the playroom was child friendly and bright. The room was laid out in defined interest areas, including a library, planting area, home corner, arts/crafts, dolls, role play, small world, transport, construction area, playhouse dolls and puzzles were available in addition to the special interest materials.
- A cozy corner was in place to facilitate quiet time. This was equipped with soft cushions/ rug and bench.
- There was open shelving with play materials and items laid out so that the children could identify and access them easily and independently. Materials were selected based on the emergent curriculum and monthly themes.
- Children's artwork was on display at an appropriate level for children. The artwork was linked to the themes of the week/month, for example, 'the River Lee' and 'managing big emotions'.
- There was a variety of materials and defined interest areas in the outdoor area, with ample space for running, jumping, free play, and a school garden for planting. The emphasis on children having access to the outdoor area on a daily basis was supported by a large and well-equipped outdoor space. There were also benches for sitting in the outdoor space suitable for both adults and children.

### Programme of Activities

- The service offered a play-based curriculum and playful opportunities were supported throughout the early learning and care programme.
- Each child had a learning journal and observations were captured on a learning record template on a twice monthly basis to record the child's learning and indicate how the adults intended to incorporate and extend the children's interests into the planned programme of activities.
- Children had autonomy and an appropriate level of choice in enabling children to initiate activities, inviting others to join in and to make decisions and plan activities outside the pre-planned programme, particularly autonomy and independent play was observed in the outdoors.
- Language development was encouraged with songs and books.

- A group painting activity was observed after the children's snack time which was an example of the children working collaboratively and offered opportunities for children to also develop their independence. Appropriate choices were observed to be offered to the children, in the types of paint, brushes, crayons, markers, pencils etc to choose from.
- Short-, medium- and long-term planning was available for inspection, notably the short term planning incorporate opportunities for parents/ guardians to get involved and share ideas via a suggestion box.

### 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 main doors of the premises were secured to prevent the unauthorised access of a person or the leaving of an unsupervised child.
- There were openable windows in the preschool room to ventilate the room.
- Lighting was appropriate and safe on the day of inspection.
- Blind cords were secured.
- Cleaning agents were securely stored and inaccessible to the children.

##### Infection Control:

- The service had a supply of liquid soap, and paper towels for hand washing/hand drying. Hand washing was observed prior to children having their snack.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Not applicable as no child was observed to sleep in this sessional service

##### Fire Safety:

- No fire safety concerns were observed. Fire doors were not obstructed, fire drills were conducted monthly and firefighting equipment/ alarms serviced in line with fire safety requirements.

##### Outing:

- Not applicable. No outings were observed on the day of inspection

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection a temperature of 46 degrees Celsius was recorded at a children's sink. This exceeds the maximum temperature of 43 degrees Celsius deemed safe for hand washing to prevent burns/scalds.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

The registered provider responded to state that the temperature was adjusted immediately and that regular temperature checks are being conducted.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

Evidence of the purchase of a new thermometer to check the water temperature was submitted.

## Summary Comment

The response and evidence provided by the registered provider was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of this regulation.