

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022CC004
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Name of Service:	Allstars Preschool Ltd
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Address of Service:	Morning Star National School, Connolly Road, Ballyphehane, Co Cork
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Eircode:	T12 R657
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mary O'Sullivan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Administration Building, St Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork T23 X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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	N/A
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Description of service

Allstars Preschool Ltd. is a registered sessional service, which accommodates children aged 2 to 6 years. The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) operates 38 weeks of the year, with daily opening hours from 8.45am to 12.15pm. The service is provided from a classroom within Morning Star National School, which is situated in the suburb of Ballyphehane, in Cork city. The children have the use of an outdoor play area beside the building.

Staffing

There are four adults employed at the early years service, including the registered provider. All four adults are involved in the direct care of the children and each holds a relevant award in early childhood care and education.

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 person in charge of the service was the registered provider, who had also nominated a designated deputy, to deputise in her absence.
 - (b) Upon the inspector's arrival, the registered provider was available at the service and remained to facilitate the inspection process. Further examination of the staff attendance records demonstrated that either the registered provider or the deputy was present on the premises during the hours of operation.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider, it was determined that one new staff member had been employed since the previous inspection. This file was assessed for compliance.
- (a) There were two written and validated references required in total and both of these had been provided by past employers.
 - (b) None of the required written and validated references on file were from sources other than previous employers.
 - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure had been obtained for the staff member. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Not applicable, as there was no evidence that international police vetting was required.
- (4) Records demonstrated that the staff member had achieved a major award in early childhood care and education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were responsible for the direct care and education of the children in attendance.
- (3) The adult child ratio was correct and maintained; there were 3 adults available to 17 children, who were aged 3 to 5 years.

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) From the 19 child records available, a sample of 10 was reviewed. The required information, as detailed under parts (a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f) (g) and (i) was included on each of the child records sampled.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)
(h) Information in relation to the child's immunisation status was unavailable or incomplete on 4 of the 10 records reviewed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The written reply from the registered provider outlined that the immunisations details have been added to the child records. As a preventive measure, the forms will be checked by the registered provider, before children begin attending in September.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the statement submitted as evidence, the registered provider has been determined to meet regulatory compliance with this regulation.

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

(1)(a)

Basic needs:

- During the sessional service, a mid-morning snack took place at 10.30am. A calm and pleasant atmosphere was evident during this mealtime routine; the children appeared to enjoy their food and were assisted as required by the adults. In addition, adequate time was afforded to the children for eating and drinking.
- Drinking water was available to the children, should they become thirsty outside of routine meal breaks.
- The children's independent use of the toilet facilities was promoted, while the adults ensured appropriate supervision and offered prompts and reminders.
- A cosy area was accessible, which supported the children's need to relax and opt out of scheduled activities, as necessary.
- The available space within the care room supported the children to explore their environment and to freely engage with materials. Outdoor play was not observed, due to wet weather conditions.

Supporting relationships:

- Throughout the morning, the adults modelled positive behaviour by speaking in low tones of voice and through acknowledging the children's interests and efforts. For example, during an observed art and craft activity, the children were supported and encouraged by the adults, who commented on their creations.
- Staff members competently led structured activities and created a playful atmosphere, which encouraged the children to participate, as was observed when the children joined in a singing and marching activity before snack time.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- Food for the mid-morning snack was supplied by the children’s parents or caregivers. On the day of inspection, such snacks were noted to include sandwiches, crackers with cheese, yogurts and a variety of fruit.
- A nut free policy was implemented at the setting and signage was displayed to this effect. The registered provider stated that parents were advised of this practice and that staff also checked the children’s lunches, as an additional precaution.
- During discussion, the inspector was informed that additional snacks were maintained at the service, for any child who may become hungry outside of the allocated mealtime, or who may require alternative snacks. It was subsequently observed that crackers and fruit were available.

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 entrance door to the building was secured from the exterior, which reduced the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the care room.
- Keypad entry was required to access the outdoor play area, which was enclosed by high-level fencing.
- The warm water supply to the children’s wash hand basins was thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. All warm water temperature readings taken at the time of inspection fell below this level.
- The blind cords in the care room were secured by tension devices.

Infection control:

- Suitable handwashing and drying facilities were available in the children’s sanitary area, including warm running water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and a lidded, pedal-operated bin. The children were observed to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.
- A refrigerator was in place and used for the storage of perishable foods.
- The care room appeared clean and well maintained. Corresponding cleaning records were displayed and staff were also observed to sanitise table surfaces during the morning.
- Wall hooks were in use to store the children’s coats and shelf storage was provided for their bags.

Administration of medication:

- Appropriate practice was ensured in relation to the storage of medication. This was noted to be labelled with the relevant child’s name, was in date and was safely stored out of the children’s reach.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed during the inspection.

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.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-
(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and
(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) Certificates of completion of First Aid Response (FAR) training were maintained for two of the adults, who worked at the service. The certificates were valid until 5 July 2027.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Insufficient first aid supplies were maintained. There were only two triangular bandages available, all of the large size sterile wound dressings were noted to be out of date, only one extra-large wound dressing was available and there were no sterile eye pad dressings provided.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The missing/expired supplies have been purchased. A staff member has been designated to check the first aid bag in September and once a month there after.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the receipt for the first aid supplies.

Summary Comment

The corrective action implemented by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 25.

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 firefighting 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)
- (b) According to the servicing records, the firefighting equipment was last checked in March 2025 and the wired smoke alarm was tested on 3 June 2025.
- (4) The service's fire evacuation plan was displayed in the care room and a written notice was also available.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) While it was acknowledged that a fire drill had been undertaken on 16 February 2026, monthly fire drills were not consistently conducted. There were no fire drills recorded for the months of November or December 2025. During subsequent discussion, the registered provider confirmed that no fire drills had been carried out during these months. Fire drills should be conducted on a monthly basis, to ensure that children and staff members are familiar with safe fire evacuation procedures.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written reply, the registered provider stated that fire drills will be completed and recorded once per month. As a preventive measure, a reminder has been added to the service mobile phone, in relation to monthly fire drills.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

Based on the statement from the registered provider, regulatory compliance is determined to have been met.