

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

|   |  |    |   |    |   |
|---|--|----|---|----|---|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>                        | TU2022CC006  |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>                         | Cherryblossoms Cullen  |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>                      | Cullen Community Centre, Mullaghroe, Cullen, Co. Cork                                |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Eircode:</b>                                 | P51 YY06   |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>             | Christina Dunstan  |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Service type:</b>                            | Full Day   |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>                      | 26/06/2024   |    |   |    |   |
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b>               | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>9</td> <td>PM</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table> | AM | 9 | PM | 5 |
| AM  | 9  | PM | 5 |    |   |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | 13 Market Square, Mallow. Cork. P51 DD5Y   |    |   |    |   |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E. Friel   |    |   |    |   |
| <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> | N/A |
|---------------------------------|-----|

### Description of service

Cherry Blossoms Cullen is a private service in operation since 2023. It offers full day, part-time and sessional services, accommodating children aged between 2 years and 6 years old. Opening hours are between 7.00 am until 6.30 pm, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated between the hours of 9.20 am and 12.20 pm. A breakfast club is available in the morning from 7.00 am until 9.20 am and an afterschool club operates from 2.00 pm until 6.30 pm. A car park is located directly opposite the service.

The service operates from a large care room located to the front of Cullen Community Centre, which is situated in the rural village of Cullen in North West Cork. It includes a small reception area where there is access to a combined children's toilet/changing area and a separate large kitchen. The service has access to the large community hall where there are an additional five toilets and three wash hand basins.

### Staffing

There were three staff members working in the service on the day of inspection. Three additional relief staff members from a sister service, one of whom is the registered provider, are available to cover staff lunch breaks/absences.

### 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 and safety. 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 person in charge, deputy, 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 ensured that there was a person in charge and a deputy person in charge, as required.
- (b) The staff roster evidenced that either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were available, on the premises, at all times.
- (2) The recruitment files for all six adults were available and reviewed;
- (a) (b) There were eight validated references from past employers and four validated references from sources other than past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all six adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Curricula vitae indicated that no international police vetting was required as none of the adults had lived outside of the State for a period of six consecutive months or more as adults.
- (4) Qualification certificates on file, for each adult working directly with the children, indicated that the six adults had obtained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, ranging from levels 5 to level 8, 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.*

*(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.*

*(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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working with the children at all times.

(2) The adult child ratios were met. There were five full day care and four sessional children in attendance with two adults in the morning and five children in attendance with two adults in the afternoon. A third member of staff arrived at 11.45 am to cover staff lunches.

(8) The staff roster evidenced that two staff members were on the premises at all times.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:*

*(a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*

*(b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*

*(c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*

*(d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*

*(e) the facilities available;*

*(f) the opening hours and fees;*

*(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

*(j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the registered provider, person in charge, deputy, staff and relief staff, were available in the staff recruitment files in the service.
- (b) Details of the class of service and the age profile of children, for which the service is registered to provide, were available in the parent handbook and on the Tusla Registration Certificate visible on the notice board in the care room of the service.
- (c), (d), (e) and (f) The details of the adult/child ratios in the service, the type of care or programme provided, the facilities available and the opening hours and fees were available in the parent handbook of the service.
- (g) The policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10; were available in a folder in the service.
- (h) Details of attendance for each child were recorded in an attendance roll call book, which was furnished to the inspector during the inspection.
- (i) The weekly staff roster was presented to the inspector on arrival via a digital application which contained the hours of work and all staff breaks.
- (j) Only one child had medication administered and the administration of medication form was found to contain the necessary particulars.
- (k) Eleven accident/incident reports were reviewed. Each one was found to contain the necessary particulars required.
- (3) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to review, on the premises, by the inspector.

## 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:

- Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals with the service providing breakfast which staff stated was served between 7.00 am and 9.20 am, the inspector observed wheat and oat-based cereals in the kitchen in use by the service. Parents/guardians provided snacks for rolling snack in the morning from 10.40 am and in the afternoon from 3.00 pm, these were observed to consist of crackers, yogurt, fruit bars and cheese. Each child was served a hot lunch in line with the service's healthy eating policy examples included potatoes, chicken, beef and vegetables of carrots, turnip and peas. In conversation, staff stated that alternative food was available, and the inspector observed beans, spaghetti, bread and soup available in the kitchen.
- Individual water bottles were available from an easily accessible shelf in the care room, near the snack table. Children were served their food on plates and had access to forks, knives and spoons which were age and stage appropriate. Additional cups and water were available for children who did not have their own water bottle.
- Staff stated that there were designated nappy changing times 11-11.30 am, 1-1.30 pm and 3.30-4.00 pm, and as and when required, nappy changing at 11-11.30 am was observed in practice. Older children were observed accessing the sanitary area independently with an adult nearby to provide assistance, if required.
- A rest/quiet area was available where children could sit away from noisy activities. The area was furnished with mats, vinyl cushions and soft toys. A variety of developmentally appropriate books were available from shelving in the area.
- Staff were observed to be sensitive and responsive to the verbal and non-verbal cues from children ensuring that each child's individual needs were met. Examples included staff physically comforting and

distracting a child settling into the service and ensuring the needs of children, on individual inclusion plans, were met.

### **SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS:**

- During mealtimes staff sat at the tables and engaged in social conversation with the children, promoting a happy and relaxed atmosphere.
- Staff stated a key worker system was in place with staff responsible for building relationships with the parents/guardians and their children.
- Children were encouraged to engage positively with one another when turn taking and sharing equipment both indoors and outdoors.
- Communication with parents/guardians was stated as happening verbally at drop off and collection with staff exchanging information on the child's day including play eating, toileting and rest.
- Staff stated that weekly meetings take place with the manger. The inspector was furnished with minutes of meetings with topics including accident/incident reports, personal belongings, time keeping and summer camps.

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

- The care room was divided into clearly defined areas, with a variety of age and developmentally appropriate play resources and equipment. These were available from baskets and drawers placed on low-level shelving which were easily accessible and encouraged independence.
- The outdoor area play was accessible from the main entrance door, providing an alternative learning environment for the children. Outdoor play was in both the morning and at lunch time. A variety of wheeled toys were available which encouraged gross and fine motor skills such as cycling balance bikes, pushing ride-ons and climbing up the slide. These physical activities provided opportunities to improve balance and co-ordination. Sand and digging areas were available for sensory experiences. Play equipment in the community hall included footballs, bats, shuttlecocks and cones providing additional opportunities for physical activity.
- Children's language development was supported through one-to-one discussions and books in the rest/quiet area.

### 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 was secured upon arrival and could only be opened from the inside preventing unauthorised adults from gaining entry. A bell was located at the main entrance door to alert staff to an adult presence at the door.
- Window openings were inaccessible to the children, located above adult height in the care room.
- Indoor and outdoor play equipment appeared in good order and well maintained.
- All flexes and cables were stored out of reach of the children.
- Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of waste indoors. Outdoor waste was stored away from the outdoor play area.
- The outdoor play area, located at the front of the service, was secured with metal fencing which had three gates each with sliding bolts.

##### Infection Control:

- Children and adults had access to thermostatically controlled hot water, ranging from 38.9°C to 40.1°C, dispensing soap, paper towels and a pedal operated bin to dispose of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed before and after eating, toileting and outdoor play.
- The care room and bathroom cleaning rotas were available, these were noted to be completed and up to date.
- Staff were observed following the service's nappy changing procedures which included; the adult washing hands before and after nappy changing, wearing disposable gloves and aprons, sanitising the unit and mat after use, washing the child's hands after nappy changing and disposing of the nappy in a lidded, lined, pedal operated nappy bin.
- The inspector noted that staff sanitised the tables before and after food along with sweeping under the table, ensuring the area was clean and hygienic.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Anti-febrile medication, stored in its original container, and out of placed out of reach of the children, on a high shelf in the care room, was available if required.

### Safe Sleep:

- Two children were observed sleeping/resting in the service on the day of inspection in the rest/quiet area. One child was observed sleeping on a stackable bed and the second child was resting on a sleep mat on the floor, bed linen was available. A staff member was observed carrying out ten-minute physical sleep checks and the children were supervised at all times. The lights in the service had been turned off, children not sleeping were provided with quiet activities. The temperature of the room was recorded at 21°C.

### Fire Safety:

- The main fire exit door, operated with a push bar mechanism, was fitted with an alarm to alert staff should a child attempt to leave the service unsupervised.
- The fire assembly point was located in the front outdoor play area, a safe distance from the service.
- Fire extinguishers were secured with brackets in the reception area and in the kitchen.

### Outing:

- In conversation, the manager stated that outings do not take place.

## 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) The registered provider ensured that a person trained in first aid for children was available, at all times. The staff rostered indicated that either the manager or deputy, both with first aid responder training, were available while the early years children were present in the service.

(2) (a) (b) A suitably equipped first aid box, stored on a shelf easily accessible to the staff in the care room, was accessible at all times.

### 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Written records were available of the monthly fire drills which took place in the service. The date recorded of the most recent fire drill was 15 May 2024.
  - (b) Written records were available detailing number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service and the smoke alarms. The firefighting equipment record was dated 14 October 2023 and the smoke alarm record was dated 23 April 2024.
- (2)
- (c) Both the firefighting equipment record, and the smoke alarm record were open to review on the day of inspection.
- (4) The emergency evacuation notices were visible in the care room, sanitary and kitchen areas of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the early years service was insured. An insurance document was available which indicated that the service was insured for 24 children on a full day care basis. The expiry date was recorded as 27 March 2025.