

# TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2022DS004

**Name of Service:** The Preschool Stewarts Care

**Address of Service:** Stewarts Care Palmerstown Campus  
Mill Lane  
Palmerstown  
Dublin 20

**Email Address:** lynn.moran@stewartscare.ie

**Name of Registered Service Provider:** Brendan O'Connor

**Type of Service Registered:** **Sessional**

**Date of Inspection:** 1 6 0 1 2 0 2 3

**No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:** AM 5 PM N/A

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Tusla – Child & Family Agency  
Trinity Building  
IDA Business Park  
Bray  
Co Wicklow

**Inspection undertaken by:** Mary Redmond  
**Title:** Early Years Inspector

## Areas which were the subject of this Inspection

Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child
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## 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

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>This preschool service was registered with Tusla in 2022 and is part of a large voluntary organisation which provides community-based services to adults and children with intellectual disabilities. The preschool service provides care and education for children aged three to six years of age with an intellectual disability and / or global developmental delay. Children attending the service are from a defined catchment area and are referred through the local Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT). Each child attends for a maximum of three hours per session and the times are staggered between 9.30am and 1pm.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The premises consists of a large standalone ground floor unit which is located on the Stewarts Care campus. It has been adapted to accommodate the service and consists of three care rooms, a multi-sensory room, an art and crafts room and a dining room for children. A kitchen and office are also provided. There is an outdoor sensory garden situated to the front of the premises and other outdoor spaces in close proximity on the premises which the children have access to.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>There were five adults employed to work with children; the registered provider does not work directly with the children. All adults were present on the day of inspection.</p>
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>The findings on inspection are based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information obtained through examination of documentation</li> <li>• Direct observation</li> <li>• Discussion with relevant staff</li> </ul> <p>This inspection was an initial announced inspection and focused on areas of Governance and Health, Welfare and Development of Child. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p>The inspector wishes to acknowledge the co-operation of the designated person in charge and the staff members who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

## GOVERNANCE

### 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
  - (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection.
- This was an initial inspection and the staff files for three adults were reviewed. The files for the designated person in charge and the named person to deputise were reviewed during the registration process.
- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for two adults.
  - (b) References from other sources were available as appropriate.
  - (c) Garda vetting was available for three adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for one adult for whom it was required.
- (4) There was evidence that two adults had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.

## Part III - Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Non-Compliance Information:	(4) There was no evidence available that one adult had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<p><b>Corrective action</b> This adult will have completed a QQI Level 5 award in Early Childhood Care and Education by 31st October 2023.</p> <p><b>Preventive action</b> The job description has been updated to specify that this qualification is a requirement for employment in the preschool.</p>
Summary Comment:	The inspector is satisfied that the corrective action will address the non-compliance.

## 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.*

Compliance Information:	(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. On the day of inspection there were four adults working directly with five children. This did not include the service manager who was not assigned to a care room.
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## HEALTH WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD

### 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:

(1)(b) The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place.

Due to the complex and continually changing needs of children attending this service each child had a person-centred plan which was devised in consultation with children, their families and members of the multidisciplinary team. Adults working in the service also liaised with the Children’s Disability Network Team (CDNT) when required.

There was a key worker system in place and the high ratio of adults to children ensured that adults had time to interact effectively with children.

Nutritious and varied food was offered to children during the session. Parents provided snacks for children attending and children were also offered a hot meal. Drinks were provided and adults were observed to give children suitable encouragement to eat and were assisted according to a Feeding Eating Drinking Swallowing (FEDS) plan which was available for each child. Children were given time to finish their food at their own pace.

Care was given to children’s appearance as they had bibs put on prior to eating and had their hands and faces cleaned afterwards.

The individualised plans in place guided adults on how to best support children’s emotional wellbeing while responding to behaviours in a way that was appropriate to the child’s age and stage of development.

The manual sign system “Lámh” was used to support communication and language development with children in partnership with parents.

Specialised equipment such as seating, a learning station and a gait training walker was available to allow children to participate as fully as possible during the session.