

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2022WW004			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Safari Childcare			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 3 Southern Cross Central, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow			
<b>Eircode:</b>	A98 Y8X7			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Cian Powell, Kevin McGuinness			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	04/12/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	60	PM	58
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	H. Bourke, T. Duignan, and J. Mayock			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors			
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>				
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.			

### Description of service

This full day care service was first opened in 2022 and is situated in a shopping centre in the outskirts of Bray in Co. Wicklow. The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 1 years and 6 years of age and can accommodate a maximum of 95 children at full capacity. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 08.00 am and 06.00 pm (including a sessional ECCE service from 9.00 am to 12 midday for 38 weeks of the year). The premises is a two-storey building that has been adapted to facilitate a childcare service. There are currently five service rooms in use. There is one sleep room, an office and a kitchen.

### Staffing

There were eighteen members of staff present on the day of inspection. This included the manager, assistant manager and the full-time chef. The registered providers do not work directly with the children attending the service. Fifteen adults were working directly with the children, with the manager and assistant manager supporting the staff when needed. All staff members have a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed equivalent.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- regulation 9 (1), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4) Management and recruitment
- regulation 11 (1), (2) and (8)(a) Staffing levels.
- regulation 16 (a) (h), (i) and (j) Record in relation to pre-school service
- regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child
- regulation 24 Checking in and out and record of attendance
- regulation 25 First aid
- regulation 26 Fire
- regulation 27 Supervision.

however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under

- regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare and development of child
- regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child
- regulation 29 Premises

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, 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

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that there are eighteen staff employed within the pre-school service, this included the chef. This was confirmed by reviewing the staff roster.

(1)(a)

The manager of the centre was the designated person in charge and there was a named person to deputise when required.

(b)

The manager was on the premises and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of eighteen adults whose records were reviewed.

(c)  
Garda Vetting disclosures were available for eighteen adults and the service was able to demonstrate compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)  
Police vetting was available for six adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months since turning 18 years of age.

(4)  
Seventeen adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or held a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### 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)  
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)

The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were 15 adults employed and present with 60 children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)

There were two adults on the premises at all times. This was supported by the staff roster.

## 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.*

*(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.*

*(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), (h) & (i)

The manager of the service made sure that a record in writing was kept of the above information.

(3)

The manager ensured that these records were available for inspection by an authorised person.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(j)

While the administration of medication was not observed on the day of inspection, medication records for the service were reviewed. Following the review of medication records, it was noted that on seven occasions between 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2022 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2023 the recording of medication documentation was not completed properly. Second signatures before administering medication and parent's signatures following administering of medication are required for safe administration of medication in a service.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(j)

Administering medication and documenting same is a part of our induction training since that period. All staff took part in refresher training for administering medication and documentation. All staff completed refresher training. Management will complete more frequent checks on medication records to ensure the steps are being followed.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(j)

A photograph of the staff signatures following retraining of administration of medication within the service, was submitted with the CAPA response.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken will address the non-compliance found on the day of inspection in relation to Regulation 16 (1)(j).

## 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

(1)(b)

The manager of the service ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were given the opportunity for free play during the morning, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the day.

The transition between one activity and the next was smooth and unhurried, aided by the language used by the adults to the children. Positive reinforcement of children's behaviour contributed to a pleasant environment for the children in the service. One to one attention was given to a child when required, in addition, support was given to children so that they remained included in activities they maybe have been unsure or unfamiliar with.

A strong ethos of teamwork was evident from observing how staff members worked together. The relationships between the adults and children reflected a sense of belonging, inclusion, connectedness and diversity.

There was a suitable cosy area in most pre-school rooms, with rugs and soft furnishings for children to use should they require it during their day.

Children's parents are spoken to on an individual basis at collection time. There is a daily written record of how each child has been during their day and this was shared with the parents at collection time. Parents are encouraged to make direct contact with the service, should they have any concerns or issues.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs

1. The children in Wobbler 1 were not afforded the opportunity for outdoor play on the day of inspection.
2. The cosy areas in the Junior and Senior Montessori rooms were not fit for the intended purpose of rest and relaxation for the children in the two rooms. The areas consisted of cushions and pillows stacked on top of two mattresses with a sheet covering them and they were placed directly on the floor.
3. Milk was not served as a drink at snack and mealtimes. This was not aligned with the Healthy Eating policy for the service. It was noted that milk was available if requested.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)

1.

Staff have been reminded about the importance of outdoor play. Management will closely monitor the activities within the room and ensure daily outdoor time. Outdoor time will be included in the morning routine in case the weather changes as the day goes on.

2.

New three-seater children's couches have been ordered and should be arriving by the end of the month replacing the cosy areas in our junior and senior Montessori rooms. New couches have been ordered to complete the cosy areas.

3.

Milk is now brought into each room at teatime and offered to all children. We have increased our milk order to ensure that we have sufficient milk for children to have milk with their tea each day.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a)

A photograph of the receipt for three couches was submitted with the CAPA response.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken, with the photographic evidence will address the non-compliances identified in relation to Regulation 19 (1)(a).

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- At 11.20am on the day of inspection, the hot water in Wobbler 1 was recorded at 44.4°C. For safety reasons, hot water should not exceed 43°C.

##### Infection Control:

- On the day of inspection, the end of day cleaning schedule in Wobbler 1 was completed before the day was over. Cleaning schedules should only be signed up after the cleaning tasks are carried out to ensure that all tasks are completed.
- The sink in Wobbler 1 was blocked on the day of inspection, which posed an infection control risk due to stagnant water collecting in the sink.
- In Wobbler 1 and Wobbler 2, children's hands were cleaned with damp cotton wool before mealtimes. Warm water and soap are required for effective hand washing and infection control purposes.
- Nappy changes were observed on the day of inspection. On two occasions, the adult failed to remove their apron following the bagging up of the soiled nappy and removal of used gloves. Aprons were removed following the redressing of the child. Soiled nappies used aprons and used disposable gloves need to be disposed of at the same time following removal of the old nappy.
- Following two nappy changes, the changing mat was not cleaned down after the nappy change of one child and the start of the nappy change of a second child. The cleaning of the changing mat between nappy changes of children is essential for infection control purposes.
- After nappy changing, children's hands were cleaned with baby wipes. Warm water and soap are required for effective hand washing. It was noted that the sink in the nappy changing area was too high for small children to have their hands washed at the sink, and there was no step to use to reach the sink.
- Low level beds were stacked on top of each other, with sheets still in place. The sheet on the bottom of the stack of beds was touching the floor, which is not effective for infection control purposes.
- Nineteen stacked beds were observed to be stored uncovered in the corridor on the first floor outside the communal sanitary facilities which was not acceptable for infection control purposes.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1.

The plumber attended and re-set the temperature for the water. Management will carry out temperature checks on all sinks and hot water on a monthly basis.

##### Infection Control:

2.

All staff have been reminded to only mark the cleaning tasks as complete when it has actually been carried out. Management will carry out spot checks on cleaning paperwork to ensure that it has been completed accurately and correctly. Many tasks can only be completed towards the end of the day, and then signed as such.

3.

The plumber attended and cleared the blocked sink removing the infection control risk of stagnant water. Staff will no longer rinse the food bowls in the room to ensure that it is only soap and water within the sink and therefore preventing any future blockages.

4.

We have provided steps for the wobbler 1 and wobbler 2 rooms in order to allow the children to reach the sink to wash their hands with soap and water. Management will do spot checks during nappy changing and meal prep times to ensure that children's hands are being washed correctly with soap and warm water.

5 & 6.

All staff completed refresher training on our nappy changing procedures and signed agreement to follow our procedures. Management will do spot checks during nappy changing times to ensure that staff are following the correct nappy changing procedures.

7.

Steps have been provided to allow children to reach the sink in order to wash their hands with soap and water. Management will do spot checks during nappy changing and meal prep times to ensure that children's hands are being washed correctly with soap and warm water.

8.

Staff have been instructed not to put the sheets on the beds earlier in the morning, in advance of sleep time, rather to put the sheets on as they are laying the beds on the floor for nap time.

This removes the infection control risk of sheets touching the floor. Management will ensure that beds are prepared just in time for nap time and not done in advance and stacked.

9.

The stacked beds are entirely covered using 2 large throws and the hallway door is kept closed to ensure that there is no infection control risk from the sanitary facilities. Management will ensure that the throws are placed over the beds each day for infection control purposes.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

1. Photographic evidence of a thermostatically reading of tap water was submitted with the CAPA response.

#### **Infection Control:**

2-9. Photographic evidence of steps in front of sinks, covered bins, revised nappy changing schedule signed by all staff members and stacked low level beds with covers over them were submitted with the CAPA response.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions taken in addition to the photographic evidence will address the non-compliances identified in relation to Regulation 23, General Safety and Infection Control.

## **Part VI - Safety**

### **Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance**

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

## Compliance Information

- (1)  
The manager ensured that all children attending the per-school service were checked in and out on the service register.
- (3)(a)(i-iv)  
The manager ensured that no other person other than the agreed list of people has access to the pre-school service.
- (b)  
The manager had a record in writing in the form of a visitors' book of all such persons who accessed the pre-school service.
- (4)  
The manager was able to demonstrate that the visitors' book was kept for a period of one year from the dates to which it related.

## 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 manager of the service ensured that there was an adequate number of adults trained in FAR first aid available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2)(a)  
First aid boxes were stored in conspicuous positions on the ground and first floors and were easily accessible.
- (b)  
The first aid boxes were always available to the children.

### 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)  
There was evidence of regular fire drills haven taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- (b)  
There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated 21<sup>st</sup> Of November 2024.

(2)(c)

These records were open to inspection by an authorised person.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within each pre-school room.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of staff present to ensure that children attending the service were supervised at all times.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
1. On the day of inspection, following the children’s lunchtime, the downstairs nappy changing facility had a malodours smell coming from it that spread out into the corridor of the care rooms. This was brought to the attention of the manager who attended to it directly.
- (e)
2. The bin in the downstairs nappy changing facility was not a sealed unit, and the contents in the bin were not double bagged allowing malodours to leak from the bin.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (c)
1. The service have added an additional vent to this changing area which allows more air to circulate within the changing area and reduces any possible odours. Management will carry out spot checks to for odours.
- (e)
2. In line with our refresher training for nappy changing procedures, staff are aware that they must double bag soiled nappies to ensure that malodours do not leak from the bin. Management will carry out spot checks to ensure staff are double bagging soiled nappies and to ensure that there are no malodours in the nappy changing areas.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- (c),(e)
- Photographic evidence of a new ventilation duct, a staff signed training sheet for Nappy changing procedures and a fully covered sanitary bin in the sanitary area were submitted with the CAPA response.

## Summary Comment

The photographic evidence in addition to the corrective actions taken will address the non-compliances identified in relation to Regulation 29 (c) and (e).