

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2023KE006				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Maap Childcare lt. T/A Tots Crèche and Daycare Nursery Ltd.				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Clover Rathvoy Park Naas Co. Kildare				
<b>Eircode:</b>	W91CKR0				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Annette Akerlind, Audrey Murray				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day				
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/12/2023				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>44</td> <td>PM</td> <td>23</td> </tr> </table>	AM	44	PM	23
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road Naas, Co. Kildare W91 X38W				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F. Maher				
<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).

### Conditions if applicable

Not applicable

### Description of service

Tots Crèche and daycare Nursery opened in 2023 as a privately run childcare service for children aged 2 to 6 years. It is part of a multiple chain of services operated by the current registered providers. The early years' service is registered to provide a full day care service and part time and sessional services are also offered. The service opens 7:00am – 18:30pm from Monday to Friday. The service is purpose built and located on the ground floor of a small apartment complex in a residential estate in Naas. The accommodation consists of three care rooms, a kitchen and one office. A secure play area is located to the side of the premises. Set down and parking facilities are available outside the premises.

### Staffing

Eleven adults are employed in the service. The registered providers do not work directly with children. There were nine adults present in the service on the day of the inspection. Six adults were working directly with the preschool children. The person in charge and operations manager provided support to the care rooms in addition to managerial responsibilities and oversight of the service. A cook was employed to prepare food daily and was present in the service.

### 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. 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, operations 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

(1)(a),(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of twelve staff members employed and/or present in the service were reviewed.

(2)(a),(b)

Twenty four written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of twelve records reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for twelve employed staff members.

(d) Police vetting was available for seven staff members who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

Six members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

The qualification of three staff members were recognised on the qualifications list issued by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

## 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)  
There were 44 children attending the service being supervised directly by 6 staff members during the inspection.

The person in charge was available to provide relief as required to the pre-school rooms throughout the day.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection.

### 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 of children

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. Parents provided the morning snack for their child and it was observed healthy options such as fresh fruit, a variety of sandwiches, cheese and fromage frais were included. The main hot meal served was beef stew with rice and was freshly prepared by the cook each day. Drinking stations were in place in each room with jugs of fresh water and cups for the children as needed. Nappy changing facilities were available should the need arise and children were encouraged to use the toilet independently but were under constant supervision by the staff members. Hand washing routines were well established and observed. Wet gear and wellies were available for the children to wear in the garden during inclement weather. The children availing of the part time or full day care service slept at a designated time after dinner and low level beds with individual linen were available. The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

##### Supporting relationships around children

Staff members were observed being respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care and each child was listened to and given time to chat and express their thoughts and feelings. A key worker system was in place. Staff members were observed sitting with the children at mealtimes and engaging them in conversation which ensured that the experience was relaxed and sociable. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times and a room diary was maintained daily in each care room as a communication aid for the staff with parents/guardians. Staff members recorded observations on each child was shared with the parents at various times during the year. Regular newsletters were distributed to parents and each room had a mobile phone text application to provide parents with updates and photographs on an ongoing basis. Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary and email and telephone contact are also used as an alternative method of contact.

### Physical and material environment

The physical and material environments in the care rooms were comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children. Defined areas of interest were observed in the care rooms; these included a library area, a home corner, area with bricks, connecting toys, puzzles and jigsaws, a construction area, small world toys and materials, sensorial materials including trays with sand and porridge oats on the day of the inspection. Materials and resources were available on low level shelving which were accessible to the children. Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities. The secured outdoor area was located at the side of the premises. It was equipped with a wooden climbing frame with a large wooden house on the platform, child sized tables and stools, water/sand play activity units, playhouses and ride on play equipment.

### Programme of activities

On the day of the inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. The staff members supported the children with their activities and did not interfere in the play. The routine was child led and responsive to the children's interests. All children spent time in the outdoor play area during the day.