

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2023MH004			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Village Preschool Nobber			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Nobber Community Hall, Main Street, Nobber, Co. Meath			
<b>Eircode:</b>	A82 E2T5			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Celine Govern			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	16/10/2023			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	2
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Family Resource Centre, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	D. Murray			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector			
<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

The Village Preschool is located in a community hall on the main street in the village of Nobber. The service provides sessional, part-time, full day and school aged care to children from 2 to 12 years. The service operates from 08:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The premises consists of a large hall converted into a care room, a kitchen /dining area, sanitary and nappy changing facilities and a storage room. An outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a designated person in charge and 3 staff members. Two additional staff members are also employed to care for the school aged children. Present on the day of inspection were the designated person in charge and 2 staff members. The registered provider does not work 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 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 regulations 9,11 and 19. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 inspector wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, 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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

(2) (a)&(b) Fourteen validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosure was available for 14 adults.

(d) Police vetting was available for 1 staff member who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Five childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or 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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2) The following adult to child ratios were observed when the service was operating at capacity on the day of inspection:
- There were 3 adults providing direct care to 12 children ranging in age from 2 years 11 months to 4 years 5 months.
- (8) (a) According to the staff roster the registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times.

### 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations were made on how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life in the service:

#### Basic needs:

- The staff members were observed encouraging and collaborating with children in their play activities. They used welcoming facial expressions and gentle vocal tones when engaging with the children and showed a keen interest in what each child was doing.
- Children individual needs were met with additional care, attention and supervision given as required. All children were encouraged to become independent and self-caring, suitable to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, hand washing, caring for their belongings and tidying away after activities and play.
- The service embraces outdoor play and learning. The door to the outdoor space was opened during the inspection with children having the option to play either indoors or outdoors with their peers.
- The service provided all the snacks with the main hot meals provided by a catering company. On the day of inspection, the children had their morning snack at 11am which consisted of waffles, beans, ham, cheese and fruit. A light snack of toast and fruit was served at 1pm. The main hot meal was served between 3:30pm and 4pm which consisted of sausages, onions, gravy and rice. Water and milk were available throughout the day. Additional food and snacks were available if needed before the children leave for home.
- The theme of the week was "Autumn" with artwork displayed which supported the children's individual efforts.

#### Supporting relationships around children:

- The adults were observed promoting positive behaviour and supported children to find positive solutions when they experienced challenge in sharing play equipment and materials.
- At snack time children were observing sitting around tables in the dining area which created a positive atmosphere where children had the opportunity to interact and developing relationships.
- The children showed confidence around the staff members and appeared comfortable, happy and relaxed in their environment.