

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024CC007
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	All Stars Preschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Bishop Galvin Central School, Newcestown, Bandon, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P72 VY04
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Noelle Harrington
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/12/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	29	PM	2
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Department, Child & Family Agency, Hospital Grounds, Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen, Co Cork P81 PD78
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Ms. O'Reilly
<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
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### Description of service

All Stars Preschool is a newly established part time and sessional early years service that opened in August 2024. It is registered to accommodate a maximum of 44 children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service currently caters for children from the age of 2 years 8 months to 6 years and for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE). Daily opening hours of the early years service are from 09:15 to 14:15 hours. Additionally, the service operates a school aged care children each morning between 08 00 and 09:00 hours and each afternoon between 14:00 and 15:00 hours each day Monday to Friday

The service operates from two single storey modular buildings that are located on the grounds of Bishop Galvin Central School, a national school located in the rural village of Newcestown, Bandon, Co. Cork. The service consists of two spacious playrooms. Room 1 named the Giggling Grapes and Room 2 named Kind Kiwis. Both playrooms have adjoining children’s toilet facilities. The staff toilet is within the main national school building. The service has access to two designated outdoor play areas located beside the two classrooms. The outdoor play areas have a combination of a grass and cement surface.

### Staffing

There were 4 staff employed to work directly with the early years children including the named registered provider/the person in charge in the service. All staff hold a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. 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 registered provider/ 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(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 named person in charge and a deputy available to deputise as required.
  - (b) The person in charge and the deputy were present on the premises on day of the inspection.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure in place.
- (2) Documentation was assessed in relation to the requirements of Regulation 9 for the four staff members.
- (a) Of the required 8 references, 4 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.
  - (b) Of the remaining references, 4 references were from another source other than a previous employer with records of the required validation on file.
  - (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of the four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Not applicable as no adult had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4)
- There was evidence that the four staff members had attained a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in each room on day of the inspection.

(2)  
During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in each playroom.

#### Giggling Grapes

There were 20 children present in the morning and 2 children in the afternoon. The children were aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years with 2 adults in attendance.

A school aged care service is in operation in this room between 8 and 9 am and again between 2 and 3pm each day.

#### Kind Kiwis

There were 9 children present in the morning sessional service. The children were aged between 2 years 8 months and 6 years with 2 adults in attendance. This room is closed in the afternoon.

### 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:*

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) A written record of the attendance of each child on a daily basis that included the arrival and departure time from the service was recorded and maintained in the service.
- (i) A weekly staff roster was maintained in the service. The staff roster indicated the names of the staff, the arrival and departure times and the time they went on break each day.
- (k) There was a hard copy Accident and Incident record book in the service. There was one reported accident and incident since the service opened in August 2024. The Accident and Incident template included once signed, a duplicate copy of the accident and incident record for the parent /guardian.

### 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:

- The children appeared to enjoy the food offered and were afforded ample time to eat and drink at a relaxed pace. Staff members were readily available to provide assistance as required.
- Children's toileting and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. Self-toileting by the children was encouraged.

- The staff members were observed to assist where required the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating and post toileting.
- The care rooms were adequately resourced with a variety of play materials that were accessible to the children on low level shelving units, providing the children with choice in their chosen activities.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their confidence and communication skills within the setting. Staff helped children to recognise and understand the rules for being together as seen on day of inspection when children were observed practising songs for the Christmas concert, that the children will perform in front of parents and families the next day. The children were observed waiting their turn, sharing the experience and the activity fostered the children's confidence in completing a group task together. The children's language skills, emotional, cognitive and social skills were all enhanced in preparing and participating for this concert.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate patience and kindness in their interactions with the children, as was noted when the children's efforts were readily acknowledged and when children were calmly assisted to resolve minor conflicts.
- The person in charge informed the inspectorate that there was an online application used to share information with parents and guardians. Phone calls, a messaging application and informal face to face discussion at arrival and collection time, were also incorporated. Parent Teacher meetings will commence in the New Year.

### Physical and Material Environment

- Both rooms in operation were well maintained child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out with special interest areas with materials largely accessible to the children. The rooms were beautifully decorated with decorations that were made by the children. There was a play fireplace and chimney on display made from cardboard boxes from floor to ceiling in height and painted red brick. There were named paper christmas stockings made by each the children, hanging from the fireplace.
- Both rooms were warm and cosy with recorded air temperatures in the playrooms between 20°C and 21°C on day of inspection. There were openable windows in each playroom at adult height and there was a combination of natural and artificial light.
- The playrooms had padded floor mats and individual padded cushions for children to sit and relax as required. There was a book area, home corner, and a fine motor skills area, art and crafts area. The rooms were furnished with sufficient child sized tables and chairs.

- The care rooms were adequately resourced with a variety of play materials that were accessible to the children on low level shelving units, providing the children with choice in their chosen activities.
- The outdoor play area was available to the children who were all provided with the opportunity for outdoor play on day of inspection. The children were appropriately dressed while playing outdoors in all weather gear that included, hats, coats and wellies
- The outdoor area was resourced with a variety of play materials and equipment that included a number of ride on and push toys, play balls, and a sand container with accompanying play equipment in the outdoor area with the cement surface. The grass surfaced outdoor play area had a timber climbing frame with a large, elongated tunnel.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

- The children’s parents and guardians provided all food items, and the children had their own water bottle.
- Lunches were stored in snack boxes and stored in the service fridge.
- Healthy, nutritious lunches were observed being eaten at the mid-morning snack such as sandwiches, rice cakes, rolls, yogurts, a selection of fruits and chopped and diced vegetables.
- There was a second lunch for the children attending the part time service.

## 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:

- Upon the inspectors' arrival at the service, the main entrance door to both playrooms were found to have been secured and was maintained secure when not in use.
- First aid boxes were appropriately stored and inaccessible to children.
- Restrictive opening devices were in place on the low-level cupboards in both playrooms.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Water temperatures at the wash hand basins were thermostatically controlled, so as not to exceed 43°C. Recorded water temperatures in the wash hand basins in the children's toilets were between 29 C to 30 C on day of inspection.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- Suitable handwashing facilities were available across the care rooms and toilet facilities. Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towels were in place. Handwashing by the children was observed before food breaks and after toileting.
- Pedal operated bins were in place for the disposal of paper towels.
- Tables were observed to be sanitised after snack time.
- The children's coats and bags were appropriately stored on wall hooks, above floor level.

##### Safe Sleep:

- There were a number of stacking beds available with designated suitable bed linen for children who wanted a sleep while attending the service. There was no child that required a sleep on day of inspection

## 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) There were two staff members present on day of inspection with a current certified First Aid Responder certificate (FAR).

(2)

(a) The first aid box was safely stored out of children's reach in each room.

(b) The first aid box was available at all times to adults if in the event that a child may require treatment.

## 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 the service was adequately insured, with insurance for 44 children until 27/03/2025. The records detailed the category of service covered which was part time day care, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.