

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2024CC010

**Name of Service:** Cherryblossoms Lisgriffin

**Address of Service:** Lisgriffin NS, Lisgriffin, Mallow, Co Cork

**Eircode:** P51T685

**Name of Registered Provider:** Tina Dunstan

**Service type:** Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

**Date(s) of Inspection:** 07/02/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	4	PM	3
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** 13 Market Square  
Mallow  
Co Cork  
P51DD5Y

**Inspection undertaken by:** B Fraher and N O Donoghue

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

### 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** Click or tap here to enter text.

### Description of service

Cherry Blossoms Lisgriffin is a privately operated early years care and education service operating from one classroom in Lisgriffin National School in North Cork. The service offers full day care, part-time and sessional services catering for children aged from 2 to 6 years. It operates from 7:00 to 18:30, Monday to Friday for 51 weeks of the year. The Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) operates from 8:50 to 11:50 and a school age service operates in the morning from 7:00 to 8:50 and in the afternoon from 13:30 until 18:30. There are two toilets, provided off the main care room for use by the children and adult toilets are available in the building. The service has direct access to a secure outdoor area from the entrance door of the service.

### Staffing

There are five adults attached to the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection, two adults worked directly with the children. The registered provider was present for a short period on the morning of inspection and planned to return to cover breaks.

### 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 The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 management and recruitment, Regulation 11 staffing levels, Regulation 19 health, welfare and the development of child, Regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 25 first aid and Regulation 28 insurance. On inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 notification of change in circumstances. 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 children, registered provider, person in charge and staff 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) The registered provider has appointed a person in charge, to oversee the operation of the service.

There was a named deputy also in place.

(b) The registered provider, the person in charge and the deputy were on duty at the service when the inspectors arrived. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy were available at the service at all times during hours of operation.

- (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to five adults who were employed in the service were the subject of the inspection.
- (a) Of the 10 required references, 6 references were from previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 10 required references, 4 references were from another source other than previous employers with record of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were obtained and were on file for each of the five staff members. The registered provider was aware of the re-vetting timeframes outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) No staff member had lived outside the state for over six months as an adult, therefore no police vetting was required.
- (4) Records demonstrated that four of the adults had achieved a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 to level 8 as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications and the fifth adult was employed to work in afterschool.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following policies were reviewed and were found to meet the necessary requirements:

- Policy on healthy eating.
- Policy on fire safety.

## 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) At the time of inspection, there were the minimum number of adults required, responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at all times.

(2) The service exceeded the minimum ratio required as per regulation in the care room for both the morning and the afternoon. There were two adults directly caring for four children in the morning and in the afternoon, there were two adults directly caring for three children.

(8)(a) On the day of inspection there were two adults 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, and

#### Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff:

##### Basic needs:

- Food was provided by the parents and was refrigerated until use. The food was seen to be healthy and nutritious. Alternative food in the form of a hot or cold meal was available in the service for children who may need it.
- Children were given suitable cutlery during mealtimes and appropriate seating was available for use in the form of waist high tables and appropriate chairs.
- Drinking water was readily available throughout the day for the children.
- The care room environment allowed children freedom to move and engage in their chosen tasks.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with staff observing and assisting children to ride on push tractors and playing ball.
- Children dressed appropriately to go outdoors, wearing coats and hats. Independence was encouraged with the children putting on and taking off their coats and staff were available to assist if requiring.
- Nappy changing was observed to be carried out and staff informed the inspector, this was carried out every three hours or more often if needed.

##### Supporting relationships:

- During mealtimes, the staff sat with the children in a relaxed environment, affording sufficient time for children to enjoy the food. Staff discussed topics of interest with the children during mealtimes.
- The adults were seen to promote positive behaviour advising the children about the importance of sharing and taking turns.

- Family pictures were evident on the wall, promoting a sense of family and belonging for the children.
- As the children painted and completed puzzles, staff were observed to provide praise and encouragement for their accomplishments.
- One staff member was seen to sing with the children in circle time which supported positive relationships with the children.
- The children were encouraged to tidy up after completing tasks, which promoted a sense of responsibility.
- A key worker system was in place for each child. The staff informed the inspector that parents are spoken to at pick up and drop off and that each parent is given a service handbook at the start of the year.

### **Programme of activities:**

- Staff stated that curriculum planning was centred around the emerging interests of the children. The inspector noticed that each child was encouraged to choose their own activities during the inspection, with children selecting different activities based on their individual interests.
- Children's language development was supported through one-to-one discussions and singing in circle time and the use of books.

### **Physical and material environment:**

- The care room was spacious, allowing freedom of movement and had lots of open shelving units where the children could easily access play equipment and material independently encouraging free choice and curiosity.
- The play equipment was age appropriate on the day of inspection.
- There was a rest area available to the children in the book area of the room.
- Low level tables and chairs were provided for the children to sit for tabletop activities.
- Children availed of outdoor play daily, using the playground area of the National school.

## 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:

- When the inspector arrived, the entrance gate to the premises was closed and the entrance door was secured with an alarm which was fitted to both exit doors. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and helped to reduce the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The warm water was recorded at an appropriate temperature in the children's sanitary accommodations between 38.2°C and 43.0°C.
- The radiator temperatures were recorded at an appropriate level of between 37.1°C and 40.8°C.
- Visibility stickers were available on the glass panel of the entrance door.
- Windows in the care room were fitted with restrictors.
- Plugs were covered and electrical cable were inaccessible to the children.

##### Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and wall mounted paper towel dispensers. Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet and before food and staff were observed to remind them.
- Children's coats were stored off the ground on wall hooks and children were encouraged to hang up their coats.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste.

##### Administration of medication:

- The person in charge informed the inspector that no child was currently on medicine in the service.
- Temperature reducing medicine was on stock and was stored out of reach of the children.

##### Safe sleep:

- The air temperature of the room was at an appropriate temperature of 18.3°C.
- There was a large cosy area equipped with soft mats, cushions and a tent. There were also four stackable beds with individual sheets. The cosy area had dimmed lights, and the blinds closed for sleeping when

needed. No child was seen to sleep during the inspection. The person in charge informed the inspector that all the children do not sleep every day, and that sleep is planned in partnership with parents and based on children's individual needs. The person in charge informed the inspector that sleep, colour and breathing was recorded every ten minutes of children while sleeping.

### Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were wall mounted outside the care room, in the hallway of the school.

### Outing:

- The person in charge informed the inspector that no outings had occurred from the service since opening.

## 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 available records indicated that both adults on duty had undertaken First Aid Responder (FAR) and the relevant certificates were available. Four adults employed in the service had completed FAR training.

(2) (a) A well-stocked first aid box was available in the care room.

(b) The first aid supply was accessible at all times, should it be required.