

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024KY001				
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Wise Owl Shanakill				
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Shanakill Family Resource Centre, Shanakill, Tralee, Co. Kerry				
<b>Eircode:</b>	V92 PF30				
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anna Podruczna, Aldona Laskowska				
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time				
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	20/11/2024				
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>23</td> <td>PM</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </table>	AM	23	PM	18
AM	23	PM	18		
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Áras an Phobail, Deans Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry.				
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N. Reidy				
<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

Wise Owl Shanakill is a private early years service that is registered to provide full day care and part-time to children between the age of 1 year to 6 years. The service offers an Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme from 09:00 am to 12 mid-day. The premise is located within the Shanakill Family Resource Centre, Shanakill, Monavalley in the urban area of Tralee. It consists of 2 playrooms, a kitchen, 1 sleep rooms and a designated office space. There is a designated spacious outdoor play area located to the rear of the building

### Staffing

There are currently 13 adults attached to the early years service, 8 of whom are involved in the direct care of the children, that includes the 1 adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) Support Scheme. Both registered providers work daily in the premises providing relief cover in the playrooms and on administrative duties. In addition, there are 4 students and 1 adult working in the kitchen.

### 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 inspections 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 providers, 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 registered providers work daily in the service and deputise for each other as is required.
- (b) When the announced inspection commenced, both registered providers were on duty and remained available to assist with the inspection process.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to each of the 13 adults attached to the service were inspected.
- (a) 15 references were from previous employers with records of validation were on file.
- (b) 11 references were from sources other than previous employers with records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting was on file for each of the 13 adults. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years in respect of each of the applicable adults.
- (d) Police vetting was on file for 2 adults who required it.
- (4) The staff members working directly with the children had achieved major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) with copies of the relevant qualifications on file.

### 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)

The registered providers did ensure that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times.

(2)

The 2 care rooms were in operation on the day of the inspection. -

#### Creche

There were 3 adults caring for 9 children aged between 1 and 3 years attending the service on a part-time and full day care basis.

#### Pre-school

There were 3 adults caring for 14 children aged between 3 and 4 years, 6 children attending on a sessional basis and 9 children attending on a full day care basis.

The adult child ratio was correct.

(8)(a)

The registered provider did ensure that a minimum of 2 adults are on the premises at all times during the hours of operation as evidenced in the staff roster.

### 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 parents of the children attending the service provided the food consumed at the snack times. A main hot meal was offered by the service that was provided by an outside catering company.
- A copy of the weekly main meal menu was displayed in the service for parents.
- The children sat at the low-level chairs at the low-level tables at mealtimes observed during the inspection.
- There were low level feeding chairs provided on the premise for use by the younger children depending on their age and stage of development.
- The children were given ample time to eat and enjoy their meal with the staff supervising and assisting them.
- The inspector observed children were offered an alternative food option to what was provided by the parent.
- The food observed on inspection included cheese, yogurts, a selection of fruit and “Harvester Pie” served for the main hot meal that consisted of chicken with vegetables.
- The children were offered drinks during the session, the children’s drinks bottles were accessible to them during the day on a low ledge in the playrooms.
- The children were appropriately dressed in coats and hats for playing outside.
- The sleep/rest routines for children in the creche were displayed on the sleep room door, the staff informed the inspector of the children’s individual sleep/rest requirements.
- The staff picked up on children’s individual cues for sleep and rest during the session.
- The staff spoke to the children in low soft tones of voice and positively re-enforced to children to share toys, taking turns and praised them for assisting to put away the toys.
- Nappy changing observed was carried out in a timely manner as required.
- The children attending the playrooms had un-restricted access to the toilets located within the rooms.
- During nappy changing the staff were observed talking freely with the children.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The children had unrestricted movement within the playrooms and in the spacious outdoor area.
- The rooms were clean, bright and airy. The windows were open to ventilate the playrooms.
- The room was laid out in clearly defined interest areas enabling the children to move about freely between the areas.

- There was open low-level shelving, storage boxes and baskets with a variety of toys for example shape sorters, puzzles, games, small animals, farm sets, a selection of small vehicles, arts and crafts materials, paints, blocks, train sets, play kitchen with associated utensils, dress-up costumes, sensory boxes, and a selection of books.
- Rest areas were provided in both playrooms consisting of a variety of soft seating, soft matting and cushions where children could rest/relax and opt out of an activity as needed.
  - The children enjoyed freedom of movement to play in the designated area outdoor. There was ride on toys, balls, hopscotch for example provided.
  - The inspector observed children who did not wish to go outside or return indoors as they requested were facilitated to do so.

### 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:

- The kitchen was secured to prevent children from accessing it.
- The entrance doors into the playrooms were secured to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The cleaning agents observed were stored on high shelving out of the reach of the children.
- The outdoor area was secured with fencing, gates and walls ensuring that unauthorised persons could not access the area or that the children could not exit the area unsupervised.
- The children's individual toiletries were labelled and stored on a high shelf in the nappy changing room out of the reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- Warm water, liquid hand soap, disposable paper hand towels and pedal operated lidded bins were provided at each of the sinks for effective hand washing by the adults and the children.
- A lidded, sealed pedal operated bin was used for the disposal of used nappies.
- Waterproof mattress covers were provided for the standard cots designated for sharing by children.
- Children were observed washing their hands after returning from playing outside.

### Safe Sleep:

- The staff were observed to check children who slept in the standard cots in the 1 sleep room in use on the day of the inspection. The staff checked the children every 10 mins and recorded the child's colour, position and breathing.
- The temperature of the sleep room in use was recorded at 16.8 degrees Celsius.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire door in the pre-school room was unobstructed.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There were 2 shelving units in the pre-school room that were not securely anchored to the wall posing a risk of injury to children.
2. The radiator cover in the pre-school room was broken posing a risk of injury to children.

#### Infection Control:

3. Not all of the children's drink's bottles were labelled posing a risk of cross infection.
4. The linen used for the cots was stored in uncovered boxes on shelving in the back stairs area located outside the creche posing a risk of cross infection.
5. There was a fridge with food items, a hoover and play materials stored in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sleep room where there was 1 cot and 10 stackable beds posing a risk of cross infection.
6. The inspector observed the staff member did not wear a disposable plastic apron when carrying out nappy changing or wash the children's hands after the nappy was changed posing a risk of cross infection.

#### Fire Safety:

7. The fire door serving the creche was obstructed by a clothes dryer posing a risk to children of not exiting promptly in the event of a fire.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. 1 of the shelving units was removed from the pre-school room and the 2nd unit was placed against the wall. A daily risk assessment in in place, the furniture will be checked every day before the morning session.
2. The radiator cover was fixed.

#### Infection Control:

3. All the children's bottles are labelled. The parents were asked to label the children's bottles and a meeting was held with the staff requesting them to check same daily.
4. There are lidded boxes provided for the children's linen, they are now stored on the new storage shelves installed in the designated storage room, formerly the small sleep room.
5. The room is now allocated for storage. The fridge was removed to the kitchen and the Hoover was removed.
6. Staff will wear an apron for nappy changing and the children will wash their hands after nappy changing. The aprons are stored close to the changing area. The staff have received and signed the nappy changing procedure.

### Fire Safety:

7. The item obstructing the door was removed. The staff were reminded at a staff meeting to keep all the fire exits clear at all times. The signage "Fire exit, keep clear" was placed at the door.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. The statements and the photographs are accepted as evidence.
2. A photograph of the repaired radiator cover.

#### Infection Control:

3. The statement is accepted as evidence.
4. A photograph of the labelled lidded boxes in place in the new allocated storage room.
5. A photograph of the room with shelving installed and a photograph of the fridge relocated to the kitchen.
6. The statement and the nappy changing unit are accepted as evidence.

### Fire Safety:

7. A photograph of the unobstructed fire door and the signage erected.

### Summary Comment

The requirement for the regulation has been met.