

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2024WW001			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	R.O.S Early Years Ltd			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	1 Emporium, Lower Tinahask, Arklow, Co. Wicklow			
<b>Eircode:</b>	Y14 AD60			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Amanda Spiteri			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	21/06/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	13
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Park Bray Co. Wicklow			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	H. Bourke			
<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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This private childcare facility opened in 2024 and provides full day care for children aged one year to six years of age. A school aged service is also be catered for. The service consists of a purpose built two storey premises in the urban town of Arklow Co. Wicklow. There are two care rooms available on the ground floor, one with a dedicated sleep room and a third care room on the first floor; a staff room, office, washroom and a kitchen are also provided. There is small enclosed outdoor space to the side of premises.

### Staffing

There are eight full time members of staff, and seven staff members were present on the day of inspection. Five adults were working directly with the children, the manager and deputy manager are supernumerary and cover for break times and when extra help is required. The registered provider does not work directly with the children.

### 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 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

Following a discussion with the manager and inspecting the staff roster it was confirmed that eight adults are employed in the service, these files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The service had a person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspector and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

There was a clear management structure within the service.

(2)(a)

Written past employer validated references were available in respect of eight adults.

(c)

The required three-year Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for eight adults employed.

(d)

International police vetting was not required as no adult working in the service had lived outside the jurisdiction for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Eight staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed 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)  
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)  
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were five adults employed and present with 13 children on the day of inspection.

(8)(a)  
There were two adults on the premises at all times. This was supported by 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,

#### Compliance Information

##### BASIC NEEDS

- There was a healthy eating policy in place. Adults sat with the children during their lunch and conversation was encouraged. Children were given plenty of time to eat their food in a relaxed and unhurried environment.
- Children were supported and encouraged to be independent with using the toilet but were supervised appropriately. Nappy changing was carried out at regular intervals and any additional needs were attended to by the adults in the care room. Hand washing following toileting was observed.
- Children were given opportunities to make choices as to which activities they wished to pursue and were supported in their choice by the staff members.
- Children had access to an outdoor area for play.
- In addition to low level beds and cots to meet the needs of children who required sleep, there was a cosy area in all care rooms for children to use during their day.

##### SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN:

- The adults demonstrated warmth towards the children through language and interaction and children's choices were respected. Adults spoke to the children directly, addressing them using their names.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way with minor problems handled promptly.
- Children's parents were spoken to directly at the end of the day to discuss how their child was during the day and any issues that might have arisen.
- Adults knelt to the level of the children when speaking to them individually.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The pre-school rooms were maintained at a comfortable temperature of 22°C throughout the inspection.
- Low level tables and chairs were provided and for children not able to sit at the tables, highchairs were available, with 3-way safety harnesses present. Laid out round the care rooms there were shelving to store toys and materials, all items stored were visible and accessible to the children.
- There were materials and toys available to promote fine motor, cognitive and language development including books, painting, craft making, water play as well as Montessori equipment, building blocks and a play kitchen.
- There was an outdoor area to the side of the premises, which all children in the service had supervised access to on a daily basis.