

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020CC005
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Name of Service:	Superstars Pre school Ltd
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Address of Service:	Gaggin Community Hall, Gaggin, Bandon, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P72 DP38
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noelle Harrington
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	07/09/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Building, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurrabraher, Cork, T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter and D Quinlan
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).

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Description of service

Superstars Preschool Ltd. is a sessional service that also caters for children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) at the premises. The service caters for children aged 2 years and 8 months upwards and provides a morning service daily. The service operates out of Gaggin Community Hall which is located in a rural area. There are sanitary facilities for children's use situated beside the hall room and there is an enclosed designated outdoor play area provided to the rear of the premises for outdoor play activities.

Staffing

There are four staff attached to this service, including the registered provider who is service based. All four staff work directly with 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 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.

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

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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 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*

(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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

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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 ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived, and the registered provider attended shortly afterwards and stayed for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.

(2) A total of four recruitment files were reviewed.

- (a) Six of the eight required written and validated references on file were from past employers.
- (b) Two of the eight required written and validated references had been provided by sources other than previous employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all four staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was not required for any of the staff as they had not resided outside of the state for a period of longer than 6 months.

(3) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that vetting procedures were carried out prior to staff having access to or contact with children.

(4) All staff working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(3) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation with three staff working with 10 children of preschool age.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

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(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1)
The registered provider has ensured that a record is kept in relation to each child. The inspectors were advised that a total of 11 children were registered, and 11 records were inspected and noted to contain the required information from (a) to (i).

(3)
(c) All 11 records were available and open to inspection.

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

- (1)
- (a) **Basic Needs:**
- The children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food during their snack on the day of inspection. Examples included fruits, yogurts, sandwiches and rice cakes. Staff stated that food was available outside of designated meal times.
 - The snack time was observed to be a relaxed time with children and staff chatting freely to each other.
 - Children's water bottles were available to them at all times.
 - Children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection.
 - Children were prompted throughout the day to use the sanitary facilities independently, but staff were observed to offer support where needed.
 - Staff were observed to communicate with children in a warm and respectful manner. For example, children were observed to be praised and encouraged throughout the morning.
 - The room was laid out in a way that promoted freedom of movement and choice.

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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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised.
- The external doors were secured to restrict unauthorised access.
- The doors leading into the stage and kitchen areas were kept secured and these areas were not accessible to the children.
- The cleaning agents were stored on high shelves out of children's reach.
- There were no electrical cables or flexes in reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The sanitary accommodations for both staff and children were equipped with liquid soap and paper towels.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use throughout the service.
- Tables were sanitized before the children had their meal.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated.
- There was a routine cleaning schedule in place. The care room appeared to be visibly clean and well maintained.
- Windows were open to aid ventilation.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Water temperatures recorded in the children's hand wash basins were 45.6°C. Water temperatures this high may deter children from washing their hands long enough to kill harmful bacteria. This poses a risk of cross infection.
2. A large sand pit in the outdoor play area was not fitted with a cover. Sand pits left open for extended periods, such as overnight, may pose a risk of cross infection.
3. Children did not wash their hands when they returned inside from outdoor play. Failure to wash hands when returning from outdoor play may lead to cross infection.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

In their written response the registered provider stated,

1. A plumber has turned down the thermostat to ensure the water could not reach that temperature in future.
2. The sand pit in the outdoor area has now been covered and staff will remove the cover in the morning and recover the sand pit at the end of each session.
3. The staff have been reminded of the importance of hand washing and a poster has been displayed to remind staff and children to wash their hands.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. The registered providers statement is accepted.
2. A photograph of the sand pit fitted with a cover.
3. A photograph of the newly hung poster.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed.

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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 registered provider had ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training at all times available to the children. Through the inspection of staff records, it was noted that one staff held in date certification. It was evident through examination of the staff roster that this staff member was available at all times throughout the day.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) (b)

The contents of the first aid box were inadequate. Whilst it is acknowledged that there was a first aid box stored in a safe location within the care room, which was available for the children in attendance, a number of dressings were found to be missing. Failure to provide adequate first aid supplies may pose a risk to a child who may need them in an emergency.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In their written response, the registered provider stated that all missing items have been replaced and a template has been developed to ensure staff are checking the contents regularly.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of the stocked first aid box, a receipt for the new materials and a copy of the new template.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 25 (2) has been adequately addressed.