

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC221
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Dreamers Creche Ltd T/A Little Angel's
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Orchard, Castlerock, Midleton, Co. Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	P25 K516
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Judy Lynch
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	26/03/2024
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<b>Date 2 of Inspection:</b>	27/03/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	48	PM	42
<b>Day 2</b>	AM	46	PM	Not assessed

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Ms. M O'Reilly
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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

Dreamers Creche Ltd T/A Little Angel's is a registered privately owned early years service in operation since 2001. This service provides education and care to children from 0 to 6 years offering a choice of sessional, part time or full day care service and for the children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The current opening hours are from 8am to 6pm each day Monday to Friday. The service operates from a single storey purpose-built childcare facility located in a suburban estate in the outskirts of Midleton town in Co Cork. There are five playrooms, four of the five playrooms were in operation at time of inspection. There is: an infant, a toddler, a Montessori, and preschool room 1 in the main building. Pre-school room 2 is located in a separate prefabricated building to the rear side of the creche. There is a designated outdoor play area to the rear and side of the building. A fit for purpose inspection took place in Dec 2023 in Preschool Room 1 as it had been extended and renovated to provide more space increasing the number of children who can attend at any one time in the room from 15 to 22. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

### Staffing

At present, there are seventeen adults employed at the early years setting involved in the direct care of the children who attend. Sixteen of the seventeen adults who work with the children hold a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education and this includes the registered provider. It excludes a student, who was undertaking a work placement at the time of inspection.

### 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 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, deputies, 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 service had a named person in charge and named deputies that could deputise as required.
- (b) One of the named deputies was present when the inspector arrived at the service and the registered provider/person in charge arrived at the service later in the morning and remained on duty until the end of the inspection. The registered provider/person in charge was present in the service when the Inspector arrived on the second day and remained on duty until the end of the inspection.
- (2)
- The person in charge confirmed that there were 17 adults employed at the service and 1 student on work placement therefore recruitment records in relation to these adults were reviewed.
- (a) There were 19 references and required validations available on file from past employers in respect of the 18 adults.
- (b) There were 17 references and required validations from sources other than past employers in respect of the adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available on file in respect of each of the 17 adults. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Seven police clearances were on file on the adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of six months or more while over the age of 18 years.
- (4)
- A copy of a childcare qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was available on file in respect of 16 of the 17 childcare staff that worked directly with the children.

## Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) One of the police clearance records on file was not translated into English.
- (4)
- A qualification as listed on the National Qualifications Framework was not available on file in respect of one staff member that worked directly with the children.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (d) A copy of the required police vetting record translated into english by a recognised translation company was forwarded to the early years inspectorate. In the registered provider written response she has stated that management will ensure that all vetting documents that require translation will be completed prior to an adult commencing in the early years service.
- (4) The registered provider in her written response has stated that she is now aware that all staff members that are part of the adult child ratio and that work directly with the children are required to have a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent qualification, as listed on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)
- (d) A copy of the required police vetting record translated into english was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
- (4) The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

## Summary Comment

- Correspondence and record received was examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 9 (2) (d) and (4) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### 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.

(2)  
There was a person in charge and 10 adults working across the 4 care rooms in operation with 48 children present in the morning and 42 children present in the afternoon. There was one student present on work placement. On day 2, there was a person in charge and 10 adults working across the 4 care rooms in operation with 46 children present in the morning. The student on work placement was not present on the second day of the inspection.

The person in charge and another staff member was observed relieving staff for breaks. 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 care room.

Day 1 and Day 2

**Baby room**

There was a total of 7 children in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon, all aged between 12 and 24 months with 2 adults in attendance on day of inspection.

On day 2 of the inspection, there was a total of 7 children in attendance in the morning. Six children were aged between 12 and 24 months and 1 child was aged between 2 and 3 years with 2 adults in attendance.

**Toddler room**

There were 12 children in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon aged between 2 and 3 years with 3 adults in attendance.

On day 2 of the inspection, there were 12 children in attendance in the morning aged between 2 and 3 years with 3 adults in attendance.

### Montessori Room

There were 14 children in attendance in the morning and 12 in the afternoon. All the children were aged over 2 years 8 months with 3 adults in attendance in the morning and in the afternoon. There was one third level student present on work placement on the first day of the inspection.

On day 2 of the inspection, there were 14 children in attendance in the morning All the children were aged over 2 years 8 months with 3 adults in attendance in the morning. There was no third level student present on work placement on the second day of the inspection.

### Preschool Room 2

There were 13 children with two adults in attendance in the morning and 11 in the afternoon.

On day 2 of the inspection, there were 13 children in attendance in the morning All the children were aged over 2 years 8 months with 2 adults in attendance in the morning.

### Preschool Room 1

This room was not in operation as the inspection took place during the easter holiday break

## 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:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

### Compliance Information

Each playroom had an Accident and Incident book. A sample of the accidents and incidents records on file in the Montessori and Baby room were reviewed. Each signed accident and incident record has a duplicate copy that the parent is to receive at collection time following the accident /incident pertaining to their child.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (k) On review of a sample of accident and incident records in the accident and incidents book in the Montessori and Baby room the following was found:
- A number of accidents and incident records were not signed by the parent/guardian in the Montessori room.
  - In the Baby room a number of parents /guardians had not received a duplicate copy of the accident and incident record from the accident/incident book pertaining to their child.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(k) The registered provider in her written response has stated the following: that she has discussed with all staff the importance of completing all the information required on each accident and incident record. As per the services policy and procedure: At collection time the parent /guardian requested to record their signature on the accident and incident record pertaining to their child and the parent/guardian receiving a duplicate copy of the completed accident and incident record.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

### Summary Comment

Correspondence and record received was examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 16 (k) of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.



## 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

- Meals and snacks were served to the children at regular intervals throughout the day. On the inspectors' arrival, some of the children were having a mid-morning snack. A hot lunch meal was provided for the children attending full day care and this was followed by a second snack later in the afternoon. Parents and Guardians provided all the food for their children while attending the service.
- Support and assistance offered by the adults during mealtimes was appropriate to the age and stage of development of the children in their care. For example, toddlers had the opportunity to feed themselves, while younger children were provided with one-to-one support. The available cutlery was suitably sized and easily handled by the children.
- After the lunch, a scheduled rest period was accommodated for children who required sleep at this time. To assist the children to relax, adults remained present in the designated sleep rooms and in the Toddler playroom, which was used as a sleep room, until children had settled.
- The adults were responsive to the children's emotional needs, as was observed when upset children were picked up, spoken to in gentle tones and offered reassurance.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly.
- The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.

### 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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured. This minimised the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises and reduced the likelihood of a child exiting, while unsupervised.
- The outdoor play area was securely enclosed by a combination of walls and secured gates.
- The cleaning materials and agents were stored in areas out of children's reach.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were observed to ensure regular physical checks of sleeping children. Corresponding sleep logs were recorded and available for review.
- The air temperature in both designated sleep rooms and in an adjacent care room, which was used for sleep, all fell within the recommended range of between 16°C to 20°C, as recommended for safe sleep practice. Sleep room temperatures were recorded at between 18°C and 19°C at time 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) Three staff had attended a certified First Aid Responder training certificate (FAR)

(2)

- (a) The first aid boxes were safely stored out of children's reach in the service.
- (b) The fully equipped first aid boxes were 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 services insurance certificate was available on the premises and demonstrated that the service was adequately insured. The information provided on the insurance certificate included details of the number of children covered which was 85, the start date, which was 13 November 2023, the end date, which was 27 March 2024 and the name and address of the premises. The service also had a copy of the insurance certificate on file that was due to commence on the 28 March 24.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Compliance Information

(c) Openable windows in the care rooms allowed for a supply of fresh air. Sanitary areas were ventilated naturally through openable windows or by means of mechanical ventilation.

(d) The care rooms and children's toilets and nappy changing facility inspected were visibly clean and well maintained.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(c)

The air temperature in one of the children's toilets and nappy changing facility located beside Preschool Room 2 was reading below the normal range at 17°C. The recommended air temperature range is between 18°C to 22°C for playrooms and toilet facilities.

(d)

1. In the Montessori room, the cover on the red couch area was in poor repair, especially around the couch seating was cracked and frayed.
2. Two refuse bins for the disposal of used paper towels in the Montessori playroom and in the children's, toilet were found in poor repair on the first day of the inspection.

3. On the first day of the inspection the toilet seat in the children's toilet located beside the Montessori room toilet facility was loose and required to be fixed in place.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

In the written response the registered provider has stated that a new heating appliance was installed in the children's toilets and nappy changing facility located beside Preschool Room 2.

(d)

1. In the written response the registered provider has stated that the red couch in poor repair was removed and replaced with new soft seating purchased and now located by the book area in the Montessori room
2. When the Inspector reviewed the two refuse bins on the second day of the inspection, the bins in poor repair were removed and replaced with newly purchased lidded pedal operated bins located in the Montessori playroom and children's toilets therefore the non-compliance was corrected at time of inspection.
3. When the Inspector reviewed the toilet seat on the child size toilet located beside the Montessori Room on the second day of the inspection, it was fixed in position on the toilet seat and no longer loose therefore it was corrected at time of inspection.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(c) Photographic evidence of the newly installed heater in the children's toilet and nappy changing facility located beside Preschool Room 2 was submitted and deemed satisfactory

(d)

1. Photographic evidence of the newly purchased soft seating in the Montessori room was submitted and deemed satisfactory.
2. N/A As the non-compliance was addressed at time of inspection.
3. N/A As non-compliance was addressed at time of inspection.

### Summary Comment

Correspondence and records received were examined and deemed to meet the requirement of Regulation 29 (c) + (d) 1. 2. 3. of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.