

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC243
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Little Treasures Pre school
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Address of Service:	Boys National School, West End, Newmarket, Co. Cork
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	P51 CP23
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Bernadette O'Connor
-------------------------------------	---------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	04/02/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	6	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Second Floor, Estuary House, Henry Street, Limerick.
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Collins
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Little Treasures pre-school is a privately run sessional pre-school service located in the Boys National School of Newmarket in North Cork. The service is operated from a single room in the national school and has use of the schools', children's and adult toilets. The service has daily access to the outdoor playground which is used a different time to the children attending the primary school.

The service is registered to accommodate 20 children.

A service is provided to children aged between 2 years and 5 years. The service is open from Monday to Friday during the academic year of 38 weeks.

Staffing

The service is staffed by two qualified adults, one of whom is the registered provider.

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 -

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, staff member 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,

(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-

(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,

(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 was the person in charge in the service during its operation. On the day of inspection, the registered provider was on the premises. There was a named deputy for the service in the event the registered provider was not onsite or not available. This person worked alongside the registered provider daily.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2) There were two adults named as being available to work in the service. Both staff files had been assessed previously and were complete.

(c) Up to date Garda Vetting was available on file for each of the two staff named as working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Both adults working directly with the children held qualifications at Level 5 to Level 7 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 available in the service for review and were in keeping with practice for a sessional service:

- The healthy eating policy,
- The infection control policy.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1) There were adequate staff available to the children on the day of inspection to meet the needs of the children in attendance. Two staff were available to care for six pre-school children.
- (3) The adult child ratio was correct during the inspection with two adults caring for six pre-school children.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) (a)-(i) The requirements as set out above were recorded on all children's enrolment forms, all nine forms for children that may attend the service were reviewed and there was evidence of the registered provider signing all forms ensuring all information was available to the staff working in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

- Care room temperature 16.5°C at 09.28 and the fan heater was restarted, and the room was recorded at 18.4°C at 09.48. the sue of the fan heater was a temporary measure while the school heating system was not functioning correctly.
- Movement around the room was not hindered in any way and a child who needed to move frequently was not stopped at any point throughout the inspection.
- No child indicated the need to eat before snack time and all children were supported to eat with opening packaging, and cutting fruit as needed.
- Drinks were accessible to the children on the countertop to get when they needed same and each child drank eater during snack time.
- Children were taken to the toilet on a scheduled basis due to accessing same on the school corridor, no child indicted the need to access the toilet outside of these occasions.

Supporting relationships

- Staff sat with the children providing small group and one to one support. Staff also sat with the children during snack time providing help as needed.
- A child with additional needs was facilitated to attend full time and was supported to take breaks and to engage when they chose to do so.
- Children knew their carers and called them by name when they needed help. The children appeared comfortable with these adults.
- Staff sang a song with the children to encourage them to clean up before snack time, where the children were observed to be slow to engage the adults supported them to help and get involved with the rest of the group.
- Parents and guardians were spoken to at collection time and feedback was given where a child had not eaten well at snack time.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Programme of activities:

- Imaginary play was observed with children 'having coffee', 'shopping' and 'checking out groceries'.
- The tabletop activities of playing cards and matching pictures helped the children concentrate on their tasks and encouraged them to sit for periods of time.
- The routine was known to the children with a planned routine in the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that there were adequate and suitable equipment and materials available to the children.

The tables and chairs were at a suitable height for the age range of children attending.

The equipment included a wide selection of jigsaws, shape sorters, tabletop Montessori equipment.

The room layout included, a farmyard, fire station, home corner with cooker, washing machine and sink, an easel with crayons and paper available. Dress up clothes and boxes of wild and farm animals and a large box of bricks were also available to the children.

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 care room and the main entrance to the school were secured by electromagnetic locks which secured the doors to the service and prevented the children getting access to the road and also prevented unauthorised access to the service by adults.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The windows were at a height that could not be reached by the children.
- There was no staircase in the service.
- All toys and equipment observed on the day of inspection were in good condition and free from any pinch or crush points.
- There was no heavy furniture at a height that could tip over on to the children observed.
- The electric flexes observed were in good condition and out of reach of the children.
- The storage facilities were inaccessible to the children and were secured with childproof door locks under the sink.
- The hot drinks consumed in the service were managed safely and only consumed when the children were seated for their snack.
- The kettle was used safely with one adult standing beside the kettle when being boiled and the kettle was then emptied and put away safely.
- An electric fan heater was required to maintain room temperature on the day of inspection, the electric cable to this was safely stored out of reach of the children.
- The surface temperature of the radiator was suitable with the temperature recorded at 35.4°C at 10.40am.

Infection Control:

- The paper towels used following hand washing were disposed of in lidded bins that were pedal operated.
- There was hot water accessible at all sinks that was thermostatically controlled. The hot water in the children's toilets was recorded at 35.4°C. in the care room was recorded at 30.4°C. There was liquid hand soap and paper towels available at all sinks.
- The perishable items contained in the children's snacks brought in from home were stored in the fridge following arrival and before snack time preventing the growth of bacteria on perishable items.
- School bags and children's coats were stored off the ground on hooks in the school corridor.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit door was unobstructed throughout the inspection. Tables were an adequate distance away from the door to ensure it was not blocked.
- The firefighting equipment was safely tethered to the wall on the main school corridor.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Hand washing practices were at variance with the practices outlined in the services infection control policy:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The children were observed not to wash their hands before snack time, this potentially allows for contamination of food with soiled hands and increasing the risk of infection. This is at variance with the services infection control policy which indicated that children would wash their hands before snack time.
 - The staff member assisting the children when using the toilet after snack time was not observed to wash their hands between each individual child. This potentially may allow for cross contamination and infection.
2. The tables where the children were eating were not cleaned prior to the children having their snack and some of the sandwiches, crackers and fruit were placed directly onto the tables, also, plates were not used as per the healthy eating policy. Food coming into contact with potentially soiled surfaces increases the risk of contamination and cross infection. This is at variance with the services infection control policy which stated that tables would be cleaned before snack time.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The infection control policy has been reviewed and will be implemented with staff ensuring the children wash their hands before snack time and the staff wash their hands between assisting each child with the toilet.
2. The infection control policy has been reviewed, and the staff have committed to ensuring the tables are cleaned before food is served and eaten.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1& 2. The assurances received on the corrective and preventive action form are accepted as proof that these actions have been completed.

Summary Comment

The requirements for this regulation as assessed have been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 insured that both staff held in date first aid responder (FAR) training and were immediately available to the children.
- (2) (a) There was a first aid box stored below the sink in the care room and the contents were adequate with sterile dressings in date.
- (b) The first aid box was available to the children attending the pre-school.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
 - (a) The fire drills that took place in the service were all recorded and the last fire drill took place on the 13.01.2026 with evidence that drills took place monthly observed.
 - (b) The firefighting equipment (Fire extinguishers) were last serviced on 11.09.2025. The smoke detection system was last serviced on 30.04.2025.
- (4) The procedure to follow in the event of a fire was displayed near the exit door.