

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR013
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Name of Service:	Play Days Pre-school
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Address of Service:	Room 1 Shanganagh Park House, Rathsallagh, Shankill, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 AY26
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Name of Registered Provider:	Elaine Cleary
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	29/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	10
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate. Tusla Child and Family Agency. Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
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
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Description of service

Play Days Pre-School is privately operated and registered to provide part time and sessional care and education to pre-school children from 2-6 Years. The service is based in Shanganagh Park house Community Centre in Shankill County Dublin and operates Monday to Friday from 9 am until 1.30pm. The premises has been purposely adapted and is also shared with another early years service. Care of the children is facilitated in one room on the first floor of the building. A purpose-built outdoor play area and a garden is provided to the rear of the premises. The play areas were well equipped with a variety of play equipment.

Staffing

In total four adults are employed in the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection three adults worked directly with the children. The registered provider arrived during the 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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels

15 (1)(a)-(i) Record of Pre-School Child

19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

25 (1), (2)(a) and (b)

26 (1)(a), (b) and (4)

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 (1)(a)-(i) Record of Pre-School Child.

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, 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), (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. The person in charge was available on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Two new adults were employed since the last inspection on the 20 April 2023. The inspection focused on records for these adults in relation to regulations (2)(a), (b) and (d), and (4). Records for four adults were inspected for regulation 9(2)(c).

(a) There were two written validated references available from a past employer for both adults.

(b) Not applicable, as the references provided were from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting was available for four adults the Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable, the two adults employed had not lived outside Ireland for longer than six months.

(4) Records were available evidencing the adults employed to work directly with the children held the required qualifications.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were twelve children attending the service being supervised by three adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured at least two adults are present at all times during the hours of operation.

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.*

(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) A sample of eight records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.

- (g) The name and telephone number of each child’s medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available for the inspector to review on 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) Each child’s learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school. Children were observed to be actively engaged in a colouring activity during the morning. Staff sat with the children and supported the activity. Play was child-led and children were observed choosing their own activities during free-play. Calm interactions between children and the staff present were observed and children were supported to interact appropriately with each other.

The service had healthy eating policy lunches were provided by parents. Children were offered a morning snack around 11 am. Snack time was observed to be a sociable occasion; staff sat with the children engaged in conversation. Independence was encouraged throughout the morning; children participated in different tasks two helpers were nominated to give out the snacks and water bottles and children were observed cleaning up following activities.

Warm interactions and good communication was observed by the adults who listened and spoke individually with the children during the inspection.

The open plan care room was arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest for the children. This allowed the children freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included construction toys, jigsaws, home corner, chalk board, books and a cosy area for children to rest. Each area was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Children's artwork was displayed. Children had an opportunity to play in the outdoor playground. The other play areas for the children were well resourced with a variety of play equipment and toys.

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 front door to the service was secure to prevent unauthorised access and children could not leave unsupervised. There were no trailing cables or flexes identified. Cleaning products and medication were kept out of children's reach. Cord blinds were secure.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained. Children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating their lunch. The sanitary area was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, paper towel and a pedal operated bin to support hygienic handwashing.

Administration of Medication:

Staff were familiar with the medication policy. Staff reported none of the children are currently on medication and none of the children have any allergies. A system was in place to record medication if required.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

The fire drill had not been conducted monthly. This posed a risk to the safe evacuation of the children in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

A fire drill was carried out. Ensure monthly fire drills are completed as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

Copy fire drill record.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in line with the actions stated by the registered provider. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 ensured a person trained in first aid for children was at all times available to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room and readily available at all times for the pre-school children.

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 last fire drill was completed on the 20 June 2025.
- (b) The maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated as being completed on 18 September 2025.
- (4) A notice for the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position on the notice board in the main reception.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) The annual service of the fire fighting equipment had not been completed. The records available showed the fire fighting equipment was last service on the 10 April 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(b) New company sought to check fire extinguishers. The fire extinguisher have been checked and a new cert have been issued.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of updated maintenance certificate.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in line with the actions stated by the registered provider. The regulatory requirement has been met.