

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR057
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tigers Leopardstown
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Leopardstown Centre, Ballyogan Road, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 WD62
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Therese Noonan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/04/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	93	PM	93
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Duff S. Quigley
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Tigers Leopardstown is a full day care service which provides full day and part time care for children from 0 to 6 years. The service operates from 07:30 to 18:30 Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a purpose-built unit over two floors located within a retail shopping park in a residential area of south Dublin. There are 8 care rooms in the service. The Junior Discoveries 1 room caters for children from 10 months to 1 year. The Junior Discoveries 2 and Senior Discoveries 1 rooms cater for children aged 1 year. The Senior Discoveries 2 room caters for children aged 1 to 2 years. The Explorers 1 room caters for children aged 2 years. The Explorers 2 room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Junior Active Cubs and Active Cubs rooms cater for children aged 3 to 5 years.

There are three designated cot rooms, and a fully enclosed outdoor space is available to the rear of the premises. The outdoor space was accessible directly from care rooms on the ground floor and was divided into separate areas to cater for the various age groups; enclosed outdoor balconies were also available to children from three care rooms on the first floor.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 25 staff including a manager. There were 22 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs a chef and a cleaner. A quality manager employed by the registered provider arrived during the morning of the inspection.

The registered provider does not work directly in the service and was not present 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3) and (4)-Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1)(2) Staffing levels.

Regulation 19 (1)(b) Health, welfare and development of child.

Regulation 20 (1)(b) Facilities for rest and play

Regulation 23 Safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of child.

Regulation 29-Premises.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23 in 4 care rooms.

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 inspectors wish 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

(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 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 who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The inspection included a review of 10 staff files for adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 28 November 2024 and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff.

Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Of the 20 written and validated references that were required, 18 were available from a past employer and 2 were available from a reputable source.

(c)  
Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the 25 staff members employed to work in the service. 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 required for 9 new staff members and was available for these staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4)  
Records were available evidencing that 10 new staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or 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.*

### 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 93 children attending the service being supervised by 22 adults on the day of 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely in all rooms – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care. Identity and belonging were promoted in all care rooms with children’s family photos, and artwork displayed on the walls of the care rooms and corridors throughout the service and visible to children. Children spent time outdoors throughout the day and were dressed appropriate to the weather.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes. Children brought morning snacks from home and the service provides a hot meal at lunch time and healthy snacks in the afternoon. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. Mealtimes were social occasions with children and adults sitting together, staff provided children with help when needed. Younger children were supported to eat independently, and bibs were worn during meals to protect the children’s clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Children were assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times. Older children used the toilet independently and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm one to one interactions with the children.

Children in the Junior discoverer rooms 1 were placed to sleep according to their individual routines and when they showed signs of tiredness. Children in the Junior Discovery room 2 and Senior Discovery rooms 1 and 2 were placed to sleep as part of the room routine. The sleep rooms were calm and conducive to sleep. Children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided the children with comfort and reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. Areas were provided within all rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

- (1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider insured there were adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day. The 3 designated cot rooms provided sleeping facilities for 19 children under 2 years old. 5 children slept on cocoon beds and 12 children over 2 years slept on mats on the floor in Junior Discovery room 2 and Senior Discovery rooms 1 and 2.

## 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:

- When the inspectors arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Anti-febrile medication was stored in high cupboards.

##### Infection Control:

Measures were taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading.

- Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination.
- Appropriate infection control measures were taken during nappy changing including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes.

- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.
- The children and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.
- Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins.
- Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which was laundered weekly and stored individually between uses.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting written consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection. Care plans were available for children who required regular or emergency medication.

### Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep rooms and the younger care rooms, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots, cocoon beds and sleep mats were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the Junior Active Cubs room, a wooden light box with a long electrical cable was stored in an open press and was accessible to the children. This posed a risk of strangulation to a child if they accessed it.
2. In the outdoor area, a large piece of tarpaulin was exposed at the end of the slide, this posed a tripping hazard for children.

#### Infection Control:

3. Toilet roll in the junior active cubs' room, active cubs' room and explores 2 room were not in a dispenser and were stored in the children's sanitary accommodation in a manner that posed a risk of cross contamination.

- In the sanitary area adjacent to Senior Discoveries 2 room, a plastic step used by the children to reach the toilet was observed to be heavily soiled and required a deep clean, this posed a potential risk of infection to the child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

- The wooden light box in the Junior Active Cubs' room has been removed to a storage press out of reach of children.
- The tarpaulin in the outdoor area has been removed and the outdoor area has been resurfaced.

##### Infection Control:

- The toilet roll dispensers have been replenished; staff have been reminded to check and replenish dispensers if they are empty. This has also been added to the cleaning check list.
- The plastic step in the Senior Discoveries 2 sanitary area has been removed, this sanitary will be used by children who do not require a step to reach the toilet.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

##### Infection Control:

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- Areas of the service were observed to require maintenance and repair as follows;
- Care Rooms:**
1. In the Active Cubs room, the paintwork was heavily chipped on the wall throughout the care room exposing the plastered wall beneath.
  2. In the Explorers 2 room part of the wall close to the sink was damaged, the filler was sharp and unfinished, and one of the tiles was loose and coming off the wall.
  3. In the Active Cubs room, a small section of skirting board, plasterboard and wire mesh were exposed at ground level beside the window.
  4. In the Junior Active Cubs room, a small hole was observed on the area surrounding an electrical socket, in addition, a data point was observed to be cracked and broken next to the socket leaving access to the cable behind it.
  5. The wooden frame around the mirrors above the children's sink in Senior Discoveries 2 room was water damaged and porous.
  6. In Senior Discoveries room 2, the linoleum floor covering was observed to be torn in parts, and a sticky residue was observed on the floor which was accumulating dirt and debris.
  7. In the Senior Discoveries room 1 and Explorers room 1 metal doorstops were observed to be sharp and jutting out from the wall with the rubber ends missing.
  8. In Junior Discoveries room 2 a sticky residue was observed on the front and side of the press, which was an accumulation dirt.
- Sanitary Areas:**
9. In the sanitary area adjacent to the Active Cubs room, the wooden cupboards under the children's sink were water damaged, and the laminate had broken away in places exposing an unfinished wooden surface.
  10. In the sanitary area adjacent to the Explorers 2 room, the laminate layer of the two toilet cubicle doors was chipped in places exposing an unfinished wooden surfacing.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The Active Cub room has been repainted.
2. The wall close to the sink in Explorers room 2 has been sanded, repaired and repainted.
3. The skirting board in Active Cubs room has been repaired on both sides and repainted.
4. The hole beside the socket in Junior Active Cubs room has been repaired, wires are no longer accessible, the data entry point has also been replaced with a blank plate.
5. The wooden frame around the mirror in Senior Discoveries room 2 has been sanded down to remove any damaged wood, the frame has also been repainted.
6. The sticky residue was removed from the floor in Senior Discoveries room 2, and a plastic strip was placed over the section where both floors meet, between the care room and the bathroom.
7. The rubber ends were replaced on the door stops in the Senior Discoveries room 1 and Explorers room 1.
8. The sticky residue on the front and side of the press in Junior Discoveries room 2 was removed.
9. The wooden cupboard in the sanitary area adjacent to the Active Cubs room has been repaired and repainted.
10. The laminate layer on the two cubicle doors in the sanitary area adjacent to the Explorers room 2 were replaced with new laminate strips.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

#### Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.