

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR164
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Name of Service:	Lilliput
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Address of Service:	222 Clonkeen Road, Deansgrange, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A94 K2H5
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Name of Registered Provider:	Annmarie Marah
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	14/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	50	PM	44
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Duff H. Sutherland
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

Lilliput is a full day care service located in a residential area of South County Dublin. The service provides early education and care to children aged between 1 – 6 years and is open Monday to Friday between 7.30am and 6.30pm. The service operates from a detached domestic dwelling which has been purposely adapted for use as an early years service. The service consists of four care rooms, the Twinkler, Toddler, Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms. The service also offers school age care to children in the afternoon. A large outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 16 staff members including the registered provider and a cook. The registered provider does not work directly with the children but is available to help when needed. On the day of inspection 14 staff members were working directly with the 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child, information and records and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 registered provider, 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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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*

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(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, the person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The inspection included a review of the required documentation for seven staff members employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 13 August 2025. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the 7 new staff members employed. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Of the 14 written and validated references that were required, 13 were available from a past employer and 1 was available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for 17 staff members. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for six adults employed in the service since the last inspection who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) had been carried out prior to seven adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) Records were available evidencing that seven staff members employed in the service since the last inspection who were employed to work directly with the children held at least the required award in Early Childhood Care

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and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a letter of eligibility to practice or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE)

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 and part time services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 50 children attending the service being supervised by 14 staff members on the morning of the inspection and 44 children attending the service being supervised by 11 staff members in the afternoon.

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;*

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(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) The records of 12 children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

(a) The name and date of birth of each child.

(b) The date on which each 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 numbers of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.

(e) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.

(f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.

(g) The name and telephone number of children's registered medical practitioner was available.

(h) Records of immunisations received by children were detailed.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) was open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

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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

A busy and welcoming atmosphere was evident on arrival in the service. Staff and children were engaged in a range of activities that appeared to be child led. 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. 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 visible to children. Child sized tables and chairs allowed the children to eat and engage in tabletop activities. There was evidence that equipment and materials provided were based on the children's individual needs and emergent interests. The rooms had a mix of Montessori materials, toys and equipment which were laid out on low level shelving units and accessible to children.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes. All food was supplied by the service and staff stated a healthy eating policy is shared with families on enrolment. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. During mealtimes children and adults were observed sitting together, with staff providing children with help when needed. Children were encouraged to clean up after themselves and assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times. Nappy changes for younger children were carried out on a schedule, and staff were observed to promptly respond to children requiring a nappy change outside of the scheduled times. During this time, staff talked to children, supporting them to feel safe and secure. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently, and staff were available to provide support if required.

Children in the Twinkler and Toddler room 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 them when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided 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 care rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities. Children in the Toddler room were observed to enjoy songs and story time as they prepared for sleep and they appeared familiar with the routine of the day.

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Staff detailed the procedures used to communicate effectively with families including sharing information on Children's activities and daily routine.

The outdoor area was split into two, with an enclosed sheltered area available to the Montessori room this was observed to be in use throughout the day. The larger outdoor area was equipped with a range of toys and materials to support play experiences and children were observed use this outdoor area at varying times throughout the day when the weather permitted.

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 enclosed, restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Toys and equipment in the indoor environment were maintained in good condition free from hazards.
- The outdoor area was observed to be suitable, safe and secure with domestic bins stored out of children's reach and all outdoor play materials maintained and in good condition free from hazards.

Infection Control:

- The indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean condition.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, paper towel, liquid soap, and pedal operated bins.
- The children were supported by staff members to wash their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were familiar with safe sleep guidelines. Sleep logs were recorded in the dedicated sleep room and care rooms where children slept. Children's individual observations included room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Children slept in standard cots and low-level beds in accordance with their ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

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Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire and evacuation procedures were on display in the four care rooms.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Electrical cables from a phone charger, were in reach of children during the inspection posing a risk of injury to a child.
2. In the indoor little garden used by the children, an asthma inhaler was stored in an unlocked drawer posing a risk of harm to a child if they accessed it.

Infection Control:

3. In the sleep room used by the Twinkler room, the mattresses on three cots used by the children were not waterproof or did not have a waterproof protective cover on them, the mattresses could not be effectively cleaned posing a potential risk of cross contamination to children.

Administration of Medication:

4. Although it is acknowledged that staff were familiar with administration of medication, no pre-consent documentation had been sought to inform staff of the procedures or amount of medication to administer to two children requiring asthma inhalers. Both inhalers were stored in zip locked bags and not in original containers. The medicine policy states that pre consent will be sought before medicine is administered to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider has stated:

1. The electrical cables from the phone charger in the Montessori room have been secured. All staff have been reminded to secure all cables in the room and to remove any equipment when not in use.
2. The asthma inhaler has been moved to a secure cabinet with a child safe lock on it. All medication will be secured in a locked cabinet going forward.

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Infection Control:

- The cot mattresses in the cot room used by the babies were temporally removed and cleaned, the service purchased mattress protectors to ensure the mattresses are protected.

Administration of Medication:

- The service has implemented a care plan. They are now ensuring that all inhalers are stored in separate zip locked bags for each child. These zip lock bags are clearly identified with the child's name and photograph. The service has advised parents that in future all inhalers must be kept in their original packaging. The revised care place has been circulated to all relevant staff, who have read and confirmed their understanding. The service will update this care plan on an ongoing basis when needs arise.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Infection Control:

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Administration of Medication:

Supporting documentation has been 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 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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) The service provided evidence that an adult trained in First Aid Response was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.

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.*
- (2) *The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (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) Documentation was available to demonstrate that fire drills were practiced monthly. The last fire drill was carried out on 19 March 2026.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced on 29 September 2025 and smoke detectors were serviced on 06 June 2025.
- (2)(c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspectors were available for review.
- (4) Procedures detailing the steps to take in the event of a fire were displayed on the wall in the care rooms.