

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS031		
Name of Service:	Oakview Village Clondalkin		
Address of Service:	Clondalkin Civic Centre, South Dublin Co. Council, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D22 E9X5		
Name of Registered Provider:	Timothy Crean		
Service type:	Full Day		
Date of Inspection:	23/06/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM 32
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate - Tusla Child and Family Agency Brunel Building, Floor 7 Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8, D08 X01F		
Inspection undertaken by:	M Bermingham and 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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Oakview Village Clondalkin is registered to provide full day care for up to 53 children aged 0 - 6 years, and operating hours are 07:30 to 18:30. The service operates from a purposely adapted space on the ground floor of a shared building. There are four rooms; Wobbler (age 2-3 years), Toddler (age 2 and 3 years) and preschool (age 3 - 5). A fourth sensory room for children aged 3-5 years, normally operates but was not in use on the day of inspection. There is an outdoor area fully enclosed to the side and rear of the building.

Staffing

There are 12 adults in total employed by the service. On the day of inspection there were 11 adults present; 8 adults worked directly with children and the person in charge, deputy and cook provided cover when required. An operations manager and quality manager arrived after the inspection started. In addition, a student on work placement was present in the service. The registered provider was not present and does not work in the service.

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, and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child and Regulation 16 – Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, operations manager, quality manager, 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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) The service had a named person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge and/or the deputy were rostered to be present on the premises for the duration of the opening hours.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place as evidenced by a display of staff roles and responsibilities, observing the operation of the service, and through discussion with staff.

(2)

Twelve adults were employed in the service, of whom seven commenced since the last inspection dated 23 January 2024. This was determined through a review of previous inspection information, the current roster, and discussion with the person in charge. Recruitment vetting documentation was reviewed for the seven new adults, student, and quality manager, and Garda vetting renewals were reviewed for existing adults. The following vetting considerations were found:

- (a) Eleven written and verified references from past employers were available.
- (b) Seven written and verified references from sources other than past employers where available.
- (c) Eight new Garda vetting disclosures where available as required, and Garda vetting renewals were available in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate's regulatory notice requiring 3-year Garda vetting renewal for all adults employed.
- (d) One International police vetting certificate was available for one adult who lived outside of the state, as an adult, for a period of more than six months.

(3)

The procedures specified in Regulation 9(2) were completed prior to those adults commencing in the service, as required, and as evidenced through a review of documentation.

(4)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Qualification records were reviewed for nine adults, all of whom were found to hold the required qualification for working directly with children.

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 was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were 8 adults working with 34 children in the morning and 32 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a)
There were at least two adults on the premises at all times, as evidenced through a review of the current roster.

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:*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1)
- A record was kept of the following information in relation to the service;
- (j) Twelve medication administration records were available and reviewed. These records held details of medication administered to children with signed parental consent.
 - (k) Twelve accident and incident records were available and reviewed. These records held details of accident, injury and incidents involving children and were signed by staff and parents.

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*
 - (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

(1)(a)(b) The following observations demonstrated how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service, and how appropriate and suitable care practices were in place;

The service provided regular meals and snacks, and a healthy eating ethos was evident. Alternatives were available to accommodate individual preferences, and some parents provided extra snack items. Children ate snack at 10:15 consisting of wholemeal bagels, cream cheese and fruit. Dinner, served at 11:45, was breaded fish, potato mash and peas, served with milk, and cottage pie was the alternative. Dinner was sourced from an external company and reheated in the service. Staff reported that children are also served breakfast from arrival, tea at 14:45, and supper at 16:45 which aligned with the menu on display and included the major food groups. Younger children wore bibs for meals and older children assisted in setting the table and served themselves. Adults supported as needed and joined children at the table for a social chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Children ate at their own pace and helped tidy up before restarting play. Such provision helps empower children and promotes a sense of pride and independence. Children had access to their individual water beakers from a low shelf in the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

rooms and from a bench outside; additionally, a jug of water was available with meals. Children played outside multiple times during the day in the shade and were appropriately dressed and monitored during hot weather. Staff reported that younger children are facilitated to sleep after lunch and are also accommodated at other times if showing tiredness. Children's toileting was supported and nappy changes were completed regularly and as needed.

Displays of the daily routine were available and included opportunities for children's play, activities, and care routines to support their learning and development. A written plan containing topics of children's interests was updated and reflective of the activities and language observed on inspection; children were observed to be highly engaged in play and the activities provided. All children were invited and encouraged to participate as they chose, and adults were knowledgeable about children's individual strengths, needs, and preferences and how to respond to and support same. Adults' interactions with children were warm and gentle and children were offered comfort promptly and in a respectful manner. Adults supported younger children to transition to sleep by appropriately reducing light, providing soft music, and sitting with children offering reassurance. Transitions ran smoothly as adults communicated as a team in guiding the children, who appeared familiar and content within the routine. Children were assigned as helpers and encouraged and praised for completing tasks. Adults participated in play and activities in a playful partnership style including, joining pretend games, singing songs, and reading stories. Children's identity and belonging was promoted to include documentation of their voices, and displays of their artwork, birthdays, and family pictures. Staff reported that a digital app is used to communicate with parents about a child's day, to include meals, sleep, nappies, activities, medication, any accidents or incidents, as well as ongoing developmental information including observations and photographs.

Indoor and outdoor environments promoted children's learning and development and were clearly laid out in distinct areas to include home and imaginary settings, creativity, art, mark making, messy and construction. Each area was amply resourced with play props, and a wide variety of materials, including sensory, all accessible from low open shelving that was clearly labelled by print and images. The children were actively engaged in each area and used the materials available. Examples of children's play included playdough, sand, water, animals, painting on a wall, and being physically active on large-wheeled toys, an obstacle course of tyres, a climbing frame, and slides. An organised and resourced environment promotes a sense of order for children and promotes their curiosity and play. Rest areas were provided using child size couches, mats and cushions, with books available, and seating was provided outside. The displays in the room were relevant and supportive of children's interests

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

and play to include, for example, images of a home and hospital setting in the imaginary area and local community landmarks.

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

The following measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and provide a safe environment. This was evidenced by observation of practice, a review of the environment and documentation, and discussion with staff;

General Safety:

- The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was enclosed and secure.
- Window cord blinds were secured.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a high press out of reach of children.
- Storage presses and the laundry area were secured and inaccessible to children.
- Toys, play equipment and materials were maintained in a good condition.

Infection Control:

- The premises, environment, equipment and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition; digital cleaning records were updated.
- Appropriate hand washing was facilitated through the provision of warm running water, liquid soap, and dispensed paper towels in children's rooms and dedicated sanitary areas.
- The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after nappy changing and toileting, after outdoor play, and before meals.
- Soothers were managed appropriately.
- Nappy changing practices were carried out in line with the service's procedures displayed.
- Children's lunch boxes that included perishable foods were stored in the fridge in line with national standards.
- Cots had cleanable mattresses and staff reported that children's bed linen is laundered weekly.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Waste was inaccessible to children and managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated their familiarity with the procedures and practices in place for administering and recording medication in line with the service's policy on medication.
- Prior parental consent was recorded to administer medication with procedures in place to safely administer if required, including in the case of an emergency.
- Medication was clearly labelled, within its expiry date, stored in the original container, and was stored out of reach of children.

Safe Sleep:

- Room temperatures were maintained within the required ranges for sleeping children.
- Staff described physical sleep checks that are completed on sleeping children in line with national safe sleep guidance and records of same are consistently updated.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency escape routes and exits were unobstructed and clearly signposted.
- Staff consistently outlined the procedures to evacuate younger and older children in the event of a fire and knew the location of the assembly point in line with the services procedures that were displayed.

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)

A person trained as a first aid responder was available to children at all times as evidenced by a review of the current roster. Current certificates of first aid responder (FAR) training were available for four staff.

(2)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available.

(a) The first aid boxes were stored safely in conspicuous positions on a high shelf in the rooms.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

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) Fire drills were completed monthly and the last fire drill was recorded to have taken place on 8 June 2026. This was evidenced through a review of written records and through discussions with staff and management.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. Records showed that firefighting equipment was serviced on 2 December 2025 and that the smoke alarm system was serviced on 19 June 2026.
- (4)
- Notices of fire evacuation procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations on the doors of each room and in the hallway.