

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DS065

**Name of Service:** Oakview Village Tallaght

**Address of Service:** South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** D24 A3EX

**Name of Registered Provider:** Timothy Crean

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 25/02/2026

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	48	PM	24
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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:** S. Early O'Brien

**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** N/A

### Description of service

Oakview Village Tallaght is one of eight full-day-care services operated by the registered provider. It is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 18:00 and accommodates children aged from 6 months to 6 years. The service operates from a purpose-built ground floor premises within South Dublin County Council Civic Offices. Children are allocated to one of five care rooms according to their age and have access to an outdoor play area. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9am to 12pm.

### Staffing

There are 16 staff members employed to work in the service, including the person in charge and a kitchen assistant. On the day of inspection, there were 13 staff members and a student present and working in the service. The Quality Manager, Compliance Manager and a relief member of staff from another service operated by the registered provider arrived after the inspector's arrival. The registered provider does not work directly in the service and was not present on the day of 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, health, welfare and development of child, safety and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(4) - Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8)(a) - Staffing levels,  
Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Service,  
Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of child,  
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 – First Aid,  
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures  
Regulation 28 – Insurance,

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1)(i)(j)(k) - Record of a 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 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) The service manager is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The deputy manager was present and in charge of the service throughout the inspection.

(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were 12 new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 16 April 2024 and one student. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

Documentation was reviewed in respect of 13 adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the 26 validated, written references that were required, 17 were available from a past employer.

(b) Of the 26 validated, written references that were required, 9 were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 20 staff members, demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for five staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(4)

Records were available demonstrating that all adults employed since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of 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. On the day of inspection there were 49 children attending the service being supervised by 16 adults on the morning of inspection and 24 children being supervised by 5 adults in the afternoon.

8(a)

There was a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times during the inspection. This was confirmed on review of the staff 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:*

*(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Children's attendance was recorded on an online application on the day of inspection. These records included details of each child's arrival and departure times from the service.

(i) A record of the staff roster was available and was reflective of the staff present on the day.

(j) Ten administration of medication records were reviewed on an online application and all were completed as required by the regulation.

(k) Ten accident and incident records were reviewed on an online application and all were completed as required by the regulation.

## 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

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service for children attending on a full day, part-time and sessional basis. Dinner is supplied by an external company and reheated onsite. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to be eating chicken, vegetables, mash and gravy for dinner. Staff advised that alternatives were available, and food preferences were catered for on the day of inspection. Additional helpings were available on request by children. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day and all children were given water with their dinner. Younger children were provided with bibs for dinnertime. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported younger children who needed assistance. Children appeared happy and content within each of the care rooms.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. In the Baby room, children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent in using the toilet and in cleaning up after their play and meals.

There was a designated nap time in two of the care rooms for younger children who require sleep. Stackable beds and cots were available for these children.

##### Supporting Relationships

Children were observed being supported by the staff members as they engaged in their self-directed play and activities. The atmosphere was friendly, happy and child centred. The staff members were observed responding to the children in a positive manner and provided praise and encouragement to each child on a regular basis. A family tree with pictures of the children and their families provided a connection with home and offered the children a sense of security and belonging in each of the care rooms. Children's artwork was displayed throughout the service and individual learning journals were maintained for each child, documenting their interests and following their learning and development journey throughout the year.

### Physical and Material Environment

The care rooms were constructively planned to create interesting play and learning spaces to encourage children to extend and develop their imaginative and explorative play and learning experiences. Low level tables and chairs were provided for tabletop activities and low-level open shelving ensured toys, equipment and materials were accessible to the children. Materials and equipment included paint, crayons, paper, books, dolls, dolls house, puzzles, blocks, cars, animals, sand play, natural and open-ended materials and fine motor skill toys including pegboards, jigsaws, matching shapes and art and craft materials for cutting, gluing and sticking. Children were observed playing in the outdoor area of the service on the day of inspection.

### Programme of Activities

Children were observed to make choices on their own play materials within the environment and demonstrated familiarity with the routine of their day.

Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Language development was supported in discussions observed both in play and at snack time where the adults encouraged the children to use words to describe their thoughts and feelings and to share stories on matters that had meaning to them.

Within the routine of the day children's identity and belonging was supported with opportunities for them to be curious. Children demonstrated autonomy within their learning environment as they transitioned to activities throughout the inspection

## 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 toys and play equipment observed in use by the children in the indoor and outdoor areas on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.

- Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.

### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in adjoining sanitary accommodation for all care rooms. Good hand-washing practices were observed after toileting, before eating and when returning indoors from play in Preschool 1 and Preschool 2.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children.
- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared clean.

### Administration of Medication:

- An adequate administration of medication record was available to document medication given should this be required in an emergency. All staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the services administration of medication policy and procedure.

### Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs of the children in the age group 1 to 2 years of age were child led but there was also a designated time for sleep after dinner. The children slept on appropriate floor beds in their care room in the Toddler Room and Preschool 1. There was also one designated cot room adjacent to the Baby Room and Wobbler Room. The service had an adequate number of cots to accommodate the age profile of the children who required cots for safe sleep. All children were offered the opportunity to sleep after their dinner. All shoes and heavy clothing were removed before children who required sleep were placed in their cots with cellular blankets. Sleeping children's breathing, position and colour was recorded in addition to the temperature of the designated cot room on an online application every 10 minutes.

### Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection, the inspector gained access to the outdoor area of the service, through a door from the main building in which the service is located. While it is acknowledged that this door is a fire door, this unsecured access poses a risk to the safety of children and staff as it did not restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.

### Infection Control:

2. Children's hands in the baby room were not washed before being offered dinner and as these children were observed to self-feed and explore their meal with their hands. This practice poses a risk of cross contamination and infection.
3. On the day of inspection, three staff members were observed carrying out a nappy change. It is acknowledged that the services nappy changing procedure was located on the wall in the changing area. The following practice was observed which is not in line with the service's own procedure:
  - Staff members were observed at 12:35 and 12:39 during nappy changes to apply cream and redress children wearing the same soiled glove from the nappy change. A fresh glove is required to be worn when applying cream during a nappy change to prevent cross contamination.
  - One adult did not effectively clean the changing mat after the nappy change and before the next adult and child used it. This practice poses a risk of cross contamination and infection for children and adults.
4. Pedal bins in the baby room, Preschool 2 and the sanitary accommodation area were broken with adults and children observed to lift the lid to dispose of waste on the day of inspection. This poses a risk to the health of the staff and children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Immediate action was taken to address the identified non-compliance under Regulation 23. Contractors were engaged without delay, and an appropriate locking mechanism was installed on the fire exit door to eliminate the risk of unauthorised access to the premises.  
  
All educators were formally notified of this change and their responsibilities were reinforced to ensure that the fire exit door remains secured at all times, except in the event of an emergency evacuation. This was communicated through staff briefings and recorded accordingly.  
  
To prevent a reoccurrence of this non-compliance in the future, robust monitoring systems have been implemented to ensure ongoing compliance. The fire exit door is now included as a mandatory checkpoint within daily safety inspections through audits, with staff members required to verify and document that the door is secure.  
  
Management will carry out scheduled and unannounced audits of all entry and exit points to ensure adherence to safety procedures and to identify any potential risks proactively. Accountability has been

assigned to designated staff members on each shift to oversee compliance, and this requirement has been incorporated into centre policies and staff responsibilities. Ongoing reminders and supervision will be provided to ensure consistent practice.

Signage has been added to the garden to display no unauthorised entry.

An Unauthorised Entry Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated relating to the fire access point in the garden.

### **Infection Control:**

2. Handwashing procedures are now clearly displayed and accessible in all care rooms and nappy changing areas to support consistent implementation. All educators were formally reminded of the required handwashing procedures and their responsibility to ensure these are adhered to at all times. Educators were specifically instructed to ensure that children wash their hands using running warm water and antibacterial soap at key times, including before and after meals, after toileting, after nappy changing, and following outdoor play. Managements have reinforced expectations through direct communication with staff, and responsibility for implementation has been clearly assigned. Initial spot checks have been conducted by the manager and deputy manager to verify compliance.

To prevent this non-compliance from reoccurring in the future, ongoing monitoring systems have been implemented to ensure sustained compliance with infection control procedures. The manager and deputy manager will conduct regular unannounced spot checks to ensure that appropriate handwashing and nappy changing practices are consistently followed.

Hand hygiene requirements have been embedded into daily practice and reinforced through regular staff briefings and team meetings, ensuring continued awareness and accountability among all staff members. Visual supports, including handwashing procedure displays, will remain in place across all relevant areas to promote consistent practice and support both staff and children in maintaining effective hygiene routines. Staff have been reminded of and reviewed the infection control policy.

These measures ensure ongoing adherence to infection control standards and support the health, safety, and wellbeing of all children within the service.

3. All staff members were formally briefed on their roles and responsibilities in relation to nappy changing and cleaning procedures, with particular emphasis on infection prevention and control standards. Clear and appropriate signage has been installed in all relevant areas to support correct nappy changing and hygiene practices.

Infection control policy was reviewed in detail with all staff members to ensure full understanding and compliance. This was reinforced through direct communication and staff acknowledgement of procedures. The infection control Risk Assessment was reviewed and updated and implemented across the Service.

To prevent a reoccurrence of this non-compliance, structured monitoring systems have been implemented to ensure sustained compliance. The manager and deputy manager will carry out regular unannounced audits of nappy changing and cleaning practices to ensure procedures are being followed consistently. Infection control practices have been embedded into daily routines, with clear accountability assigned to staff on each shift to oversee adherence.

Ongoing supervision, staff briefings, and team meetings will be used to reinforce expectations and maintain high standards of hygiene practice. These measures will ensure continued compliance with Regulation 23 and support the health, safety, and wellbeing of all children within the service.

- All damaged bins were removed and replaced with appropriate, fully functional bins in all areas of the service. Clear signage has been installed on each bin to reinforce correct usage, including ensuring lids are securely replaced after use and that any faults or damage are reported promptly to management. Staff members have been informed of these requirements and their responsibility to maintain appropriate waste management practices in line with infection control procedures.

Ongoing monitoring systems have been implemented to ensure that this non-compliance does not re-occur in the future. Management will carry regular and unannounced audits to assess bin condition, appropriate usage, and adherence to infection control standards. Daily room checks have been updated to include bin condition and functionality, with responsibility assigned to room leaders to ensure bins are clean, operational, and used correctly at all times. Any maintenance issues identified will be reported and addressed without delay to prevent recurrence.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

- Photographic evidence of lock, signage and evidence of confirmation of works completed by facilities. A copy of a revised daily risk assessment has been submitted to include the fire door.

#### **Infection Control:**

- Photographic evidence of handwashing displays and staff meeting minutes and attendance in relation to a review of infection prevention and control.

3. Photographic evidence of nappy changing procedure displays and evidence of staff meeting and attendance to review this policy and procedure.
4. Photographic evidence of new bins now available throughout the service, with a receipt for proof of purchase of same.

### Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
A person trained in first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Five staff members held current FAR certification.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available and safely stored in each of the care rooms.

## 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)

There was evidence of regular fire drills having taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on 11 February 2026.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated February 2026 and December 2025 respectively.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within the care rooms and the main hallway of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance which expires on 27 March 2026 for a full day care service which covers a maximum of 53 children.