

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS102			
Name of Service:	Leap Frog @ The Park			
Address of Service:	14 Allenton Drive, Ballycragh, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin.			
Eircode:	D24 PVH3			
Name of Registered Provider:	Julian Moore			
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional			
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/04/2025			
No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	n/a
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W			
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern			
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

Leapfrog Childcare provides a not-for-profit part-time and sessional service to children aged 2-6 years. The service is open between 09:30 and 13:45 and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 09:30 to 12:30. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 22 children. A school aged service is also provided. The service operates from a room in a community building owned by South Dublin County Council. Sanitary facilities are provided directly beside the room and an outdoor area is available at the rear and front of the building.

Staffing

The service is run by a voluntary board of management. There are five staff employed to work in the service, including a designated person in charge.

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.

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.

(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 had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge and deputy were on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or deputy to be present at all times of opening.

- (2)
- (a) & (b) Appropriate consideration had been given to references for all adults. References had been sourced from past employers or from another source where adults had only one or no previous employers. All references had a record of verification checks carried out.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting had been sourced for all adults who had had lived in another state for more than six months as an adult.
- (4) All staff employed to work directly with children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 4 adults working directly with 14 children.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided was always maintained.

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

Staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They prompted the children to wash their hands at appropriate times. They supported the children to use the toilet with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision. Drinks and food were provided by the service. The adults sat with the children when they were eating and supported conversation.

The children moved freely within the room and outdoor areas, engaging in play and activities. Transitions between activities were well managed with staff explaining to the children what was going to happen next. All children spent time outdoors and had sunscreen lotion applied beforehand appropriate to the weather. An area with soft seating was provided where children could rest or take a break from activities.

Supporting Relationships around Children

The adults fostered positive relationships with children by offering support through responsive interactions, attentive listening and gentle guidance. Group activities, such as shared meals and cooperative play, were designed to develop communication skills, strengthen social bonds and help children build friendships.

Photographs of the children's families were displayed to support children's connection between home and the service. Staff discussed maintaining connections with families by communicating at drop-off and collection and holding meetings when needed to support children's emotional and social development.

Physical and Material Environment

A variety of materials, toys and books were available to support children to engage in various forms of play and learning. The indoor area was laid out with various interest areas to include a construction area, a home corner, a sensory area and an arts and crafts section. These were resourced with equipment and props to support

imaginative and creative play and learning. Opportunities were provided for messy play including use of play dough, paint and water. Puzzles and blocks were available on low level shelves easily visible and accessible to the children. Children's artwork was displayed showing the children's efforts and creativity are valued.

The rear outdoor area was surfaced with impact absorbent matting and had some equipment to support play including a playhouse, basketball equipment and small world toys. The front outdoor area had a small garden with natural grass and bushes and a table for water play. The person in charge reported an application is being made for a grant to develop the rear outdoor area and include some natural elements.

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:

Appropriate measures had been taken to safeguard the children. Cleaning products and cables were kept out of children's reach. Heavy furniture was secured to prevent tipping. The front door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. The rear outdoor area had a high perimeter wall with fencing and a secured gate.

Documented risk management plans were available where risks had been identified by staff. This included a risk management plan to prevent a child leaving the service from the front outdoor area due to the low perimeter wall and gate. The plan was always adhered to during the inspection which included having a minimum of two staff members with a maximum of seven children to allow for increased supervision.

Infection Control:

Appropriate measures had been taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading. Sanitary facilities were equipped to support handwashing. Staff guided children to wash their hands after toileting, after outdoor play and before meals. Tables were cleaned before eating to maintain hygiene. The premises appeared clean and well-

maintained. Daily cleaning schedules were available and completed. Waste was properly managed using pedal-operated bins, ensuring hands-free disposal.

Administration of Medication:

The person in charge reported that no child registered to attend had required medication to be given by the staff. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedures to administer medication safely if needed. This included obtaining parent/guardian consent, safely storing the medicine out of reach of children and maintaining detailed records of any medicine given.

Fire Safety:

The fire exits and passageways were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of a fire. Staff demonstrated an awareness of fire evacuation procedures. Records were available detailing monthly fire drills carried out to prepare the service to respond in the event of fire.

Outing:

The person in charge reported that the service does not undertake outings.

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 with First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for at least one trained person to be available to the children at all times of opening.

(2)

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) The first aid box was available for use 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had been carried out in the service. The most recent fire drill record was dated 25 March 2025.
 - (b) Records were available detailing the firefighting equipment and fire detection system in the service. Records showed that these had been last serviced in February 2025.
 - (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location in the pre-school room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed staff closely supervising the children at all times. There were always two adults with a maximum of seven children when using the front outdoor area in keeping with the services risk management plan due to the low level of the perimeter wall and gate.