

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DS135 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Giraffe Childcare Adamstown |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Adamstown Avenue, Castlegate, Lucan, Co. Dublin |
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|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | K78 NH94 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Dearbhala Cox Giffin |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time, Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 08/07/2025 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 33 | PM | 37 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | 1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | Sarah Quigley & Fiona Carty  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector(s)   |

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

Giraffe Childcare Adamstown is a privately owned service which was established in 2008. The service currently provides full day, part time, and sessional care and education to children aged 26 months - 6 years. The programme of care is facilitated through a play-based curriculum. Giraffe Childcare Adamstown is located in a residential area in Lucan, South County Dublin and operates from a purpose-built premises. The service is facilitated across five open plan preschool care rooms, four of which were in operation on the day of inspection. A fully enclosed outdoor play area located on the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs nineteen staff members, not including the registered provider. On the day of inspection, sixteen staff members were present including the area manager and an adult providing relief cover from another centre operated by the registered provider.

### 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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an assessment of the following regulations;

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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, area manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

(2)

Following a discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that seven adults had commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these seven adults as detailed below. The requirement of regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed for all adults employed to work in the service.

(a) (b) There were two references each available for the seven adults which had been appropriately verified.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for the seven adults.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to adults commencing employment in the service.

- (4) Six of the adults newly employed held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. One adult did not require a qualification.

### 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 pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were thirty-seven children present in the service being supervised by eleven adults during the inspection. The person in charge provided relief cover to the care rooms when required.

### 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;*
  - (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.*

### Compliance Information

A sample of documentation was reviewed for 12 of the children currently enrolled to attend the service by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to points (a) to (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

## 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

#### (1)(b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered regularly. Self-feeding was promoted in younger care rooms and staff assisted children where required. The staff supported the children in managing their personal care. Children's nappies were changed routinely and as needed. Staff used opportunities when providing personal care for warm one-to-one interactions. Staff addressed children by name and spoke to them in gentle positive tones. Children were comforted promptly if they became upset. The routine of care was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play during the inspection. The children were observed to go outside for a period of time in the morning and afternoon and were dressed appropriately for the weather.

An area with matting and cushions was provided within the rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities. Younger children were provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time. Staff reported that children could be accommodated to sleep outside this time if they displayed signs of tiredness.

The children were made comfortable for sleep, with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers and comforters to those who used them. The environments were calm and conducive to sleep, with staff

sitting with the children and soothing them as needed. Staff reported they communicate daily with parents through an online application regarding individual children's care, including information about diet, activities, sleep, and nappy changes.

### 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 inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps were taken to safeguard children attending:

##### General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

##### Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

### Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

1. Some of the nappy changing practices observed were at variance with the policy and associated procedures in place in the service and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows:
  - A staff member was observed re-dressing a child and cleaning down the nappy changing mat wearing the soiled gloves used during the nappy change.
2. A swing lidded bin was observed to be in place in the Junior Preschool room for disposing of waste including used nasal tissues. Staff members were observed repeatedly touching the bin lid posing a risk of cross contamination.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. Staff members have been refreshed on the nappy changing policy and full demonstrations have been completed on the importance of this policy to eliminate cross contamination. The service will ensure spot checks are carried out in this room and will monitor nappy changing practices. Management will continue to refresh training and complete skill demonstrations with staff as required.
2. A pedal bin has been replaced in the junior preschool room. The staff in this room have since been reminded to use the foot pedal when opening the bins. Signage has been placed around the bin areas to prompt staff when operating them. The Management team will ensure that all practice and safety measures are constantly checked

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

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

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.



## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
    - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
    - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
    - (iii) an employee, or*
    - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
  - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) Documentation reviewed evidenced that a record was maintained in the service which detailed the children's arrival and departure times each day.
- (3)
- (a) A system was in place to ensure that visitors to the service could not gain entry without the approval of an employee. The entrance door to the service was secure, and a bell was in place for visitors to request entry.
  - (b) A record was available in the service which documented the entry of visitors. The person in charge requested the inspector sign this record on arrival which detailed the time of arrival and departure.
- (4) Documentation reviewed evidenced the record detailed above in paragraph (3) was retained for the specified timeframe.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the service was adequately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children in attendance.