

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS136		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Giraffe Childcare Lucan		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Ballyowen Lane, Lucan, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	K78 EV80		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Dearbhala Cox Giffin		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	24/04/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	36	PM 35
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	J. Mayock & S. Quigley		
<b>Title:</b>	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).

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

Giraffe Childcare Lucan is a full day care service provided by Giraffe Childcare Limited which provides twenty four childcare services. The service provides full day-care, part-time care and sessional care and caters for children from 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:15 to 18:45, Monday to Friday. Sessional care is provided from 09:00 to 12:00.

The service is located in an urban area and occupies the ground floor of an office building beside the Ballyowen shopping centre in Lucan, south Dublin. There are seven care rooms in the service. The Wobbler 1 room caters for children aged 11 months to 1 year. The Wobbler 2 room caters for children aged 1 year. The Toddler room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Junior Preschool room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years. The Preschool room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years. The ECCE 1 room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years and the ECCE 2 room caters for children aged 2 to 3 years.

There is a dedicated cot room and there are fully enclosed outdoor play areas at the front and rear of the building

### Staffing

The service currently employs nineteen staff including a manager. There were twelve staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The service also employs a chef. The area manager was present during the inspection. 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

- 9 (2)(a-d) Management and Recruitment,
- 11(1),(2) Staffing Levels,
- 16(i),(k) Record in relation to Pre-school Service,
- 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
- 25 (1),(2) First Aid,
- 26 (1) Fire Safety.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

- 9(2),(3),(4) Management and Recruitment,
- 16(i),(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 inspectors wish 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

*(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.*

#### Compliance Information

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that one adult commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 23 September 2024. Documentation was reviewed in respect of this adult and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a)  
Two references from a past employer were available for this staff member.
- (c)  
A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for the staff member. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)  
Police vetting was required and was available for this staff member who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

### 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)(3)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care and sessional services were adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were thirty-six children attending the service being supervised by twelve adults on the day of inspection.

## 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:*

- (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)
- (i) The staff roster was available on inspection and reflected the staff assigned to each room appropriately.
  - (j) A sample of ten administration of medication records were reviewed, all ten records were documented and signed appropriately in conjunction with the service policy.
  - (k) A sample of ten accident and incident records were reviewed, all ten records were documented and signed appropriately in conjunction with the service policy.

## 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 staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

### General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.

### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. A cupboard in the Junior pre-school room was chipped and broken exposing sharp edges to the children, this posed a risk of injury.

#### Infection Control:

1. The sterilisation of soothers in the Toddler and Junior pre-school room was at variance with the services policy. Staff in the room told the inspector they sterilise the soothers every Friday. The services policy states that soothers are to be sterilised at the end of every day.
2. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure as follows;
  - A staff member was observed to redress a child with the same gloves used for nappy changing,
  - A child's nose was cleaned while the adult wore the same gloves used for nappy changing,
  - The changing mat was not wiped down in between a nappy change,
  - No apron was worn for one nappy change,
  - The children's hands were not washed after two nappy changes.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The cupboard in the Junior Preschool room has since been repaired.

#### Infection Control:

1. All staff have been refreshed on the sterilisation of soothers policy and will ensure that soothers in use will be sterilised daily.
2. Staff have completed training on nappy changing and Infection control to ensure we eliminate the spread of infection or any cross contamination.

#### Summary Comment

This regulatory requirement has been met and will be reviewed 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on 27 March 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire fighting equipment were dated 07 April 2025 and a record was available evidencing that quarterly maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place on 07 April 2025.

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