

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS180
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Name of Service:	Youth Horizons Creche
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Address of Service:	1 Sundale Road, Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 YD71
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mairead Hughes
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/09/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	9	PM	6
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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
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Description of service

Youth Horizons Creche is a not-for-profit early years' service and is located on the ground floor of Youth Horizons Education Centre. The service operates from 08:45 to 16:30 and provides a sessional, part-time and full-day care service to children aged from 0 to 6 years of age. Children are accommodated in two rooms, the ECCE room and the Baby room and have access to an outdoor area.

Staffing

There are four adults employed to work in the service and two adults employed under a community employment programme. There were six staff present on the day of inspection, including the designated person in charge, and all adults were working directly with the children. The registered provider does not work in the service 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.

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

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8) - Staffing levels

Regulation 16 (1)(a)(h)(i)(j)(k) - Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 (1)(a)(b) - 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) - Record in relation to pre-school service.

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-

- (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 service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived at 10:15 on the morning of the inspection and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The inspection focused on the recruitment records for six adults employed in the service. There have been no new staff employed since the last inspection on 15 November 2023. Regulation 9(2)(c) was reviewed in respect of all staff. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for all six adults. 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 available for two 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 to work directly with the children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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. There were nine children attending the service being supervised by six adults on the day of inspection.

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 a hardcopy register 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) There were no records on file in an administration of medication notebook of any medication administered since the last inspection. The person in charge stated that medication is only given in an emergency.
- (k) There were no records on file since the last inspection on 15 November 2023 of any accident or incident having occurred.

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)

Basic Needs

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly on the day of inspection. Staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals.

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. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to be eating a snack comprising of banana, grapes and oranges and a dinner of mashed potato, carrots, sausages and gravy. 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. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported children who needed assistance. Children appeared happy and content within the care room.

Supporting Relationships

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play. Staff encouraged and praised the children when promoting positive behaviour. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and mealtimes.

Staff described how they record information about each child's day, their care needs, learning and development and how this is shared with parents daily.

Physical and Material Environment

The care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials supporting children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, jigsaws, a rest area, books, and a home corner. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the age and stage of development of the children attending and were adequately resourced.

The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the service. The outdoor space is accessible via the hallway from the ECCE Room and the Baby Room. The play area has a variety of age and stage appropriate equipment and was adequately resourced.

Programme of Activities

Children were observed to make choices on their own play materials within both the indoor and outdoor environments.

Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Children sat and shared their stories with the adults at snack time and during play and these were responded to. Language development was supported in discussions between the adults and the children, observed both in play and at snack time.

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 inspector

General Safety:

- The entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access.
- 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 environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication was stored safely and out of the reach of children.
- Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in the adjoining sanitary accommodation of the ECCE Room. This sanitary accommodation is used by both care rooms.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared clean.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Nappy changing was observed on the day of inspection, and the practices were fully in line with the nappy changing practices of the service.

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of anti-febrile medication and prescribed medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required in an emergency.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspectors.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes on a hardcopy notebook. Discussion with staff demonstrated that they were familiar with safe sleep guidelines. Documented sleep checks were reviewed for the previous week. All were completed, in date and staff signature included.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were observed to be clearly identifiable and were not obstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. A review of documentation evidenced that fire drills are not occurring monthly in the service. The last available fire drill record was documented to have taken place on 24 May 2024. Not practising regular fire drills can hinder the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

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Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

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Summary Comment

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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. Documentary evidence showed that four staff members hold current FAR certification.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available and safely stored on the premises.

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.

(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)
- While it is acknowledged that there was a record of fire drills, the last recorded fire drill was documented as having been carried out on 24 May 2024. The person in charge stated that the records for the previous year had been shredded in error. Please refer to regulation 23 of this report.
- (b)
- A six-monthly record was maintained of when the fire detection system and smoke alarms were last serviced on 02 May 2025.
- Firefighting equipment records were available demonstrating that these were last serviced in October 2024.
- (4)
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout the service

Non-Compliance Information

- (3)
- The registered provider had not ensured that a record of fire drills for the period from September 2024 to June 2025 were available for review on the day of inspection and were retained for a period of 5 years.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

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Supporting documentation submitted

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Summary Comment

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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 31 January 2026 for a creche which covers a maximum of 15 children.