

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS189
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Name of Service:	Oakview Tallaght
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Address of Service:	TUD Tallaght, Greenhills Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Timothy Crean
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	29/04/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	42	PM	36
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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 & R Brien
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	NA
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Description of service

Oakview Tallaght is one of eight early years services operated by the registered provider. This full day care service is situated in a purpose-built, single-story facility on the grounds of the Technological University Dublin (TUD), Tallaght. The service provides care to children aged up to six years. It opens between 08:30 and 17:30, Monday to Friday. There are four care rooms. Each room has direct access to a large outdoor area. A separate sleep room is available for children attending the Baby and Wobbler rooms.

Staffing

There are 14 people employed to work in the service including the service manager, a domestic and a caretaker. 12 staff are employed to work directly with the children. The service manager reports to an area manager who in turn reports to the registered provider. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present on inspection.

On the day of inspection, the operations manager and the quality manager for the company were onsite and observed working with the children. Additionally, two adults from another centre operated by the registered provider arrived following the inspector's arrival and spent the day working in the service.

Therefore, there were 14 staff members working directly with the children 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/ premises and facilities 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)(3) - Staffing levels

Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(k) - Record in relation to 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

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 20(1)(b) – Facilities for rest and play and Regulation 29(c) – Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16, 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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 30 April 2025 for non-compliance with regulation 9(2)(c). A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who had access to children contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012.

The registered provider submitted a response on 30 April 2025 which adequately addressed this non-compliance.

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

(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.*

(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

(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 inspector arrived at 10:00 on the morning of the inspection and was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The files of 18 adults were reviewed as part of the inspection. This included 11 staff members who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 13 December 2022.

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

(a)(b) Of the 36 validated, written references that were required, 35 were available. 26 of these were available from a past employer and 9 from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 17 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 six 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 in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

There was no second written and validated reference available in respect to one adult.

(2)(c)

A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who was present in the service on the 29 April 2025 contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act 2012. An Immediate

Action Notice was issued on the 30 April 2025. The registered provider submitted a response on the same day outlining the actions being taken to address this non-compliance.

(3)

The registered provider did not take appropriate measures to ensure that all employees were suitable to work in an early years' service prior to their commencement date as outlined below:

- It is acknowledged that three past employer references and a reference from a reputable source were available in respect of three adults, however, there was no evidence available to demonstrate that these references had been validated by the registered provider prior to the adult's commencing employment in the service.
- The registered provider did not ensure that a reference was validated for one staff member prior to their start date of employment. The staff member had commenced employment on 31 March 2025 and the reference was validated on 24 April 2025. This adult arrived at the service during inspection from another service owned by the registered provider.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

A second written reference has now been obtained, validated and placed in the educator's staff file. A checklist has been implemented for all new educators to verify that recruitment documentation, including references and validations are complete prior to their start date. If this is not possible, the start date will be postponed.

(2)(c)

The Garda vetting disclosure was received on 30 April 2025, dated 29 April 2025. This is now available on the educator's staff file. In the future, vetting applications will be made in time, to ensure these are processed prior to new employees commencing their role.

(3)

All references have now been validated and are available on each staff members file. In the future, the manager with the support of the service's compliance officer will ensure that all documentation has been completed and is in order prior to new educators commencing employment in the service. If references cannot be validated prior to the start date, this will be postponed until such time as the relevant references can be validated.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence submitted of reference validation and revised checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance. These will inform the next inspection.

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)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full-day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 42 children being supervised by 14 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:

- (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 electronic device 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) Two medication records were reviewed and found to be completed appropriately with signatures from both staff and parents.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (k) A sample of 25 accident and incident records were reviewed. In relation to 9 of these records, there was no evidence to suggest that these had been signed by a parent/guardian. Failure to ensure that parents/guardians have been informed of an injury to their child may pose a risk to the continuity of care of the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All previously unsigned accident and incident records have now been signed by parents/guardians. Educators will ensure that all accident and incident reports are completed during the handover process at collection time each day. The manager will review all reports at the end of each day to help ensure no signatures are missed and to maintain accurate and complete records.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of an internal memo sent to staff to remind them of the daily procedure in having accident and incident reports signed off correctly.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance. These will inform the next inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and staff reported that all meals are provided by the service. Dinner is prepared and delivered by an external food company and re-heated on site. Staff informed the inspectors that children are offered breakfast on arrival between 08:30 and 09:00, a snack at 10:00, dinner at 12:00 and afternoon snack at 15:00.

On the day of inspection, meals were provided at regular intervals with inspectors observing that children were offered chicken casserole and rice for dinner. Staff advised that alternatives were available and food preferences catered for. Bottles for children attending the Baby room are provided to the service by parents daily. These are stored in the fridge as required. 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 with their dinner. Children appeared happy and content within each of the care rooms.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's hands and faces were cleaned after dinner as required. Children's nappies were changed

regularly, and 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.

There was a designated nap time in the Toddler room, the Wobbler room and the Baby room but staff advised that if children require sleep outside of this time, they will follow the child's lead.

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 were observed to use encouragement, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour in line with the service's behaviour management policy. 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 using an online application detailing information on food, sleep and nappy changes.

Physical and Material Environment

Care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials and areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Areas of interest included small world toys, construction toys, jigsaws, rest areas with books, home corners and dress up areas. The care rooms provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and were adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Family photos, birthday displays, visual routines and children's artwork were displayed in the care rooms.

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 premises and had a grass surface. The area was divided into two separate play spaces, one shared between the Baby room and Wobbler room and one shared between the Toddler room and the Preschool room. These play spaces which were resourced with a range of developmentally appropriate play equipment.

Programme of Activities

There are picture cues and visual displays on the wall at the children's level in each of the care rooms to support them to make decisions on their play throughout the day. Children were observed to make choices on their own play materials within the environment.

Within the Baby room and Wobbler room, there is a set sleep time and each child's sleep routine are on display. Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Language development was supported in discussions observed both at snack time and in the outdoor areas where the adults encouraged the children to use words to describe their thoughts and feelings. Children handled transitions well and it is evident that they are familiar with the daily routine of the service based on observations on inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

On the day of inspection, five children aged one year were observed by the inspectors to be sleeping on low stackable beds. These beds are unsuitable for this age group as these beds were not fitted with firm, flat, waterproof and breathable mattresses. This may impact the safety and quality of sleep for children under 2 years.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Foldable cots have been ordered to facilitate nap times in the wobbler room to replace the floor beds for children under two. A full risk assessment for children under two years on floor beds was carried out and will be reviewed and utilised should children sleep on floor beds in the future. If a child requires a bed under 2 years, a sleep plan/ transition plan will be put in place firstly between the parent/guardian, educator and the service manager.

Safe sleep policy and procedures will be followed in accordance with Tusla regulations at all times

Supporting documentation submitted

Receipt as proof of purchase of nine foldable cots. A copy of the risk assessment for use of floor beds.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Visitors to the premises were required to sign in on arrival to the premises.
- Medication 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 four 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.

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.
- 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. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Fire Safety:

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

Outing:

- Following discussion with the person in charge and staff on the day of inspection, they informed the inspector that they do not take the children on outings during the year.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

On inspection of the outdoor play area, the following were found to pose a risk to the safety of the children:

1. A post in the ground to the side of the storage shed in an area in the garden used by children attending the Baby room and Wobbler room was broken and presented with jagged pieces of splintered wood.
2. A piece of plywood on the metal railing which had guttering attached for use by the children was water damaged and splintered.

Infection Control:

3. In the Baby room children's hands were not washed prior to eating. This age group were observed to be encouraged to self-feed using their hands, and this posed a risk of infection for the children.

Administration of Medication:

4. Procedures and practices in place for children attending the service requiring medication were at variance with the service policy, posing a potential risk to the health and safety of children. There was no documented care plan in place for one child who requires emergency medication, contrary to the services Emergency Medication policy.

Safe Sleep:

5. There was no evidence available to demonstrate that consultation with parents had taken place to ensure safe and agreed sleep plans were in place for five children aged one year and that parents had given consent for their child to sleep on a floor bed rather than in a cot.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The damaged and splintered tree post has been removed from the outdoor area and properly disposed of.

The water-damaged plywood has been removed and discarded of to ensure the outdoor environment is safe and well-maintained.

The Quality Manager has added a garden specific section to the risk assessment audit and will complete regular checks on the outdoor environment.

Infection Control:

Procedures for handwashing are visible and on display in all care rooms and nappy changing areas. Educators were reminded to follow these steps, to ensure the correct hand washing procedures are carried out in the service. All staff were reminded that children must wash hands with running water and soap before/after meals, after using the toilet, after nappy change, and when returning from the outdoor area. This was also noted through a staff meeting. Spot checks will be undertaken by the manager and deputy manager.

Administration of Medication:

A care plan for a child requiring emergency medication has now been updated and is available. In the future, educators will ensure that all care plans are detailed sufficiently prior to the child's start date or upon diagnosis and will be updated regularly.

Safe Sleep:

Foldable cots have been ordered to facilitate nap times in the wobbler room for children under two years and will replace the beds observed in use on the day of inspection.

The services safe sleep declaration has been reviewed by all educators and the centre manager.

A full risk assessment for sleep requirements for children under 2 years has been completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of post and plywood having been removed. Garden audit and checklist template also submitted.

Infection Control:

None

Administration of Medication:

Copy of updated care plan submitted.

Safe Sleep:

Risk assessment for use of floor beds.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance.

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. Four staff members hold current FAR certification.

(2)(a)(b)
Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were 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.

(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 a record of fire drills being carried out monthly, the last recorded fire drill was documented as having been carried out on 24 April 2025.
- (b)
- A service record was maintained for the fire detection system and smoke alarms. These were last serviced on 18 March 2025.
- Firefighting equipment service records were available demonstrating that this equipment is serviced annually and was last serviced in September 2024.
- (4)
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in conspicuous places throughout 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 51 children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

(c)

1. While it is acknowledged that staff were aware of the high temperatures in the care rooms and had mitigating factors in place to reduce these such as having the windows open, blinds pulled down and air-cooling units in place, the temperatures were not adequately maintained between 18°C and 22°C in the care rooms. In each of the care rooms, the temperatures were recorded as follows with the temperatures recorded during nap time in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms:

Baby Room	24.6°C	12:00
Wobbler Room	23.4°C	13:18
Toddler Room	23.5°C	13:39
Preschool Room	26.4°C	15:10

2. On the day of inspection at 11:35 there was a malodour in the nappy changing area located between the Baby Room and the Wobbler Room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

1. The registered provider has stated that industrial coolers are installed in the care rooms from May to September to reduce the temperatures in the rooms. Windows are opened on arrival and doors left open where safe to do so. Blackout blinds are in situ to reduce sunlight into the care rooms. Temperatures continue to be monitored. A room temperature audit has been added to each care room for staff to monitor temperatures daily. If temperatures begin to rise, management will be informed, and a preventive action checklist will commence. If temperatures fail to reduce, the room will be closed until the temperature has been controlled. The registered provider is considering installing air conditioning throughout the service to endeavour to reduce temperatures in warm weather.

2. Educators are encouraged to change the nappy bin throughout the day to prevent malodour in the nappy changing area. The service uses a specialised nappy disposal system that is hygienic, seals in odours and complies with health and safety standards. The nappy changing area has ventilation.

The manager will carry out spot checks to ensure that the nappy bin is being changed throughout the day to prevent malodours in the nappy changing areas.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of industrial air coolers currently available in the care rooms. Evidence of temperature within the appropriate range. A copy of the room temperature audit and the preventive action checklist also submitted.

Summary Comment

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