

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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Eircode:	D24 FD43
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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:	14/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	37
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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 & H. Bourke
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).

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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-storey facility on the grounds of the Technological University Dublin (TUD), Tallaght. The service provides care to children from 0 to 6 years of age. 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. Twelve staff are employed to work directly with the children.

On the day of inspection, there were 12 adults present in the service and 11 were working directly with the children and 1 student who was present on placement. The operations manager and the quality manager for the company arrived at the service for the closing meeting. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present on 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.

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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 15 (1) - Record of a pre-school child,
- Regulation 19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare and development of child,
- Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play,
- Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
- Regulation 24(1)(3) – Checking in and out and record of attendance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15(1) - Record of a pre-school child across each of the four care rooms of the Baby room, Wobbler room, Toddler room and Preschool Room.

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.

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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, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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 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 throughout the inspection.

(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were 11 new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 29 April 2025 and 1 student present on placement. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

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

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- (a) Of the 24 validated, written references that were required, 21 were available from a past employer.
- (b) Of the 24 validated, written references that were required, 3 were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 16 staff members and 1 student present on placement, demonstrating that the registered provider has adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available for eight 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 11 adults employed since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above 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.*
- (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 during the inspection.

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(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 40 children attending the service being supervised by 10 adults on the morning of inspection and 37 children present being supervised by 9 adults on the afternoon of inspection.

8(a)

There was a minimum of two adults on the premises during the inspection. This was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

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

(1)

Twelve children's records were sampled and reviewed. The records detailed the information as required by the regulation.

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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 on the day of inspection. In their interactions with the children, the adults were respectful and actively listened to the ideas, opinions and needs of each child. All adults were familiar with the names, ages and family members of each child. They reported on the likes, interests and care needs of the children within the care rooms. The routine of the day was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play during the inspection.

Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the rooms. Milk was offered to children at dinner time. 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.

Younger children were provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time with an appropriate number of cots and floor beds available. 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 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 regarding individual children's care, including information about diet, activities, sleep, and nappy changes.

The children were observed to go outside for a period of time in the morning and afternoon of inspection and were dressed appropriately for the weather.

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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-

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The indoor environment consisted of four care rooms with their own sanitary accommodation, one cot room, an office, staff sanitary accommodation, staff room and a kitchen. The care rooms were bright and warm with adequate space for the children. They were adequately laid out with interest areas accessible to the children. Children had access from each room to an outdoor play area located to the rear of the service which was suitable to the ages of the children. This space consisted of a grass surface and was well resourced with a variety of toys for the children to use such as, a sandpit, climbing frames and slides.

The staff advised the inspectors that they facilitate daily outdoor play. The outdoor area and the equipment and materials available provide appropriate learning opportunities for the children based on their age and stage of development. On the day of inspection, children were playing outdoors and were adequately dressed for the weather.

(b) The service had a designated sleep room with cots suitable for babies and young children under two years in addition to sleep beds suitable for older children. In the rooms where children required sleep, all bedding and sleep bags were stored in individual labelled storage bags. On the day of inspection, lights were turned down, blinds pulled down, Bedding was changed as appropriate and laundered weekly. All care rooms had a cosy/rest area within the room to provide space for rest and relaxation for children who may require time out from the normal activity within the room.

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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:

- 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.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children in the indoor and outdoor areas on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, 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 handwashing for staff and children in the sanitary areas adjacent to the care rooms.
- Foot pedal bins were in working order and available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned before and after snack time.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children.
- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared clean.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs of the children in the Baby room, Wobbler room and Toddler room were supported with a designated time for sleep after dinner. Staff reported that children had an opportunity to sleep outside of this time if they showed signs of tiredness or if they didn't normally sleep during the day. The service had an adequate number of cots to accommodate the age profile of the children who required cots for safe sleep. All shoes and heavy clothing were removed before children who required sleep were placed in their cots and on floor beds. Each care room had a cosy area for children to use who did not sleep during

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their day. Sleeping children's breathing, position and colour was recorded in addition to the temperature of the designated cot room adjacent to the Baby room and Wobbler room.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- On the day of inspection, nappy changing procedures were not effective in ensuring the prevention of infection and cross contamination.
 - One staff member was observed to dry their hands on their trousers prior to the nappy change. They did not wash the child's hands after the nappy change prior to returning the child to the care room. When cleaning the changing area, the staff member used the same piece of paper towel to wipe down the changing mat and countertop. They did not remove their apron until they were ready to return to the care room, at which point they did not wash their hands.
 - It is acknowledged that a detailed procedure was available on file, however this was not displayed to ensure effective practice in nappy changing. While a nappy changing procedure was displayed on the wall, it was not robust enough in covering all of the necessary steps to ensure the health of staff and children.
- On the day of inspection on two occasions at 12:00 and 13:52, one staff member was observed to lift the lid of a pedal bin by hand to dispose of general waste. This practice can result in cross contamination and spread of infection for staff and children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

To correct the non-compliances from the day of inspection, the person in charge has displayed the following notices:

"use foot pedal to operate bin" in all nappy rooms and beside bin in the rooms.

"Nappy changing policy and procedures" in the nappy changing area.

Visual images of "Nappy changing policy procedures" in nappy changing area.

"Hand washing policy procedures" in nappy changing area.

Visual images of "Hand wash policy procedures" in nappy changing area.

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To prevent these non-compliances from reoccurring in the future a staff meeting was held on the 18/05/2026 to re-induct the staff on nappy changing, hand washing policies and procedures and remind the staff to use the foot pedal to operate bin.

Staff re-read, understood and sign off nappy changing policy procedure.

Staff re-read, understood and sign off hand washing policy procedure.

Ensure new staff read, understand and sign off nappy changing policy procedure.

Ensure new staff read, understand and sign off hand washing policy procedures.

Checklist created for appropriate supervision of nappy changing procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary and photographic evidence of newly displayed policies, procedures and checklist in addition to staff signatories confirming that they have re-read and understand the services policy and procedures in relation to nappy changing and hand washing.

Summary Comment

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

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

The person in charge ensured that all children attending the service were checked in and out on the service register.

(3)(a)(i-iv)

The person in charge ensured that no other person other than the approved list of people has access to the pre-school service.

(b)

The person in charge had a record in writing in the form of a visitors' book of all such persons who accessed the pre-school service