

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS195
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Scoil Íosa Playgroup
-------------------------	----------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Scoil Íosa National School, Tymon North Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 X37V
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Bernadette Frazer, Elizabeth Bermingham
-------------------------------------	---

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/01/2026
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	---	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Early O'Brien
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Scoil Íosa Playgroup is a sessional service which provides care to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service operates from a classroom in Scoil Íosa national school in an urban residential area of Tallaght, South Dublin. The service is registered to operate from 09:15 to 12:15, Monday to Friday. Children have access to the school hall and courtyard at the discretion of the school principal. Children also have access to the school yard for outdoor play. This care room is shared with another registered provider who operates an afterschool service within the building.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 3 staff and there were 3 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered providers work directly in the service and were 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) - Staffing levels,

Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Service,

Regulation 19 (1)(a) - Health, welfare and development of child,  
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1) – Record in Relation to a 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 registered provides, 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, 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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)  
Upon review of the staff files, it was identified that there was one new staff member employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 19 February 2024. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation (9)(2)(c).

(a)(b) Documentation was reviewed in respect of one adult and met regulatory requirements as follows:  
Of the two validated, written references that were required, both were available from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for all three 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 not required as there was no evidence to suggest that the staff member had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(3)  
The records outlined in regulation 9(2) above were dated prior to the commencement date of employment of the adult in the service.

(4)  
There was documentary evidence available to demonstrate that the staff members held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

### 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.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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.

(3)  
The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 9 children attending the service being supervised by 3 adults.

### 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 in a hardcopy book with the arrival and departure times of each child recorded daily.
- (i) A staff roster was available with details of daily sign in and sign out times for each adult and represented the names of all staff working in the service on the day of inspection.
- (j) There was no evidence of administration of medication to a child since the last inspection.
- (k) One accident and incident record documented since the last inspection was reviewed. This was found to be completed appropriately with signatures from both staff and parents as required by the regulation.

### 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*

#### Compliance Information

##### **Basic Needs**

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and staff reported that all snacks are provided by parents and guardians for children attending on a sessional basis. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to be

eating sandwiches, a variety of fruit, raisins, rice cakes and pasta. Drinking water was accessible to children throughout the day and all children were given a choice of water or milk with their snack. Children appeared happy and content within each of the care rooms.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent in using the toilet and in cleaning up after their play and meals.

### **Supporting Relationships**

Children were observed being supported by the staff members as they engaged in their self-directed play and activities. The atmosphere was friendly, happy and child centred. The staff members were observed responding to the children in a positive manner and provided praise and encouragement to each child on a regular basis. The service had a key person system in place and staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Photographs and pictures of the children engaged in previous activities were displayed in the care room and this provided opportunity for reflection and a sense of security and belonging for the children. Individual learning journals and storybooks were maintained for each child, following their development and learning journey throughout the year and will be presented to parents at the end of the pre-school year.

### **Physical and Material Environment**

The care room was bright and was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included small world toys, a home corner, sensory play, an art area, sand tray and a rest area with books. The care room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. Children's artwork was displayed throughout the care room. 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 room.

### **Programme of Activities**

Children were observed to make choices on their own play materials within the environment and demonstrated familiarity with the routine of their day.

Positive language was observed to be used across the staff team and with the children. Language development was supported in discussions observed both in play and at snack time where the adults encouraged the children to use words to describe their thoughts and feelings and to share stories on matters that had meaning to them. Within the routine of the day children's identity and belonging was supported with opportunities for them to be curious. Children demonstrated autonomy within their learning environment as they transitioned to activities throughout the inspection.

The children have access to the school yard for outdoor play which has a mix of tarmac and grass surfacing and a courtyard which as a surface of synthetic grass. Due to inclement weather on the day of inspection, children were not observed to use these areas.

### 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 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.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in adjoining sanitary accommodation for all care rooms.
- Good hand-washing practices were observed after toileting, before eating and when returning indoors from play.
- Foot pedal bins were 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.

- Perishable food items were stored in the refrigerator as required.

### Administration of Medication:

- The service had an administration of medication policy in place. Medication has not been given to date in the service. An adequate medication record was available to document medication given, should this be required in an emergency. All staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the medication policy. Anti-febrile medication was available, in date and stored out of the reach of children

### Fire Safety:

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

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

- On the day of inspection, it was observed that the surface of the countertop at a sink in the care room which children could access was chipped. As this surface could not be cleaned effectively, it poses a risk of cross contamination and infection to staff and children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

The registered provider has repaired the countertop and replaced the surface with a non-toxic adhesive cover. To prevent this issue from reoccurring, the countertop will be inspected weekly and repaired as necessary

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

Photographic evidence

### Summary Comment

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

## 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 regular fire drills having taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on 11 December 2025.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated November 2025 and October 2025 respectively.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within the care room and the main hallway of the building.