

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS211
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Dara's Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	60 Corbally Heath, Saggart, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D24 WK5E
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Dara Pender
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	01/07/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	7	PM	7
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Level 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R Phillips
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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
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### Description of service

Dara's creche provides full day care to children 2-6 years of age. The service concurrently runs a sessional service from 09:15-12:15 for 38 weeks of the year. It operates out of a purposely adapted extension to a residential dwelling, in an urban area of Southwest Dublin. There are three care rooms and an outdoor play area available. The service is registered to provide care to 22 children and is registered to provide a school age service.

### Staffing

The service employs three adults including the registered provider who manages the service and works directly with the preschool children.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

- 9 (1) (2) (4) Management and recruitment,
- 11 (1) (2) Staffing levels,
- 15 (1)(a) -(i) (3) Records of a preschool child,
- 19 (1)(a) Health, welfare and development of child,
- 25 (1) (2) First Aid, and

### 26 (1)(a)(b) (2) (c) (4) Fire safety measures

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15, Record of a preschool child.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Additional Information

#### Immediate Action Notice

Regulation 25(1): An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 01 July 2025 as no person with First Aid Responder (FAR) training certification was available to the children on the day of inspection. A response was received from the registered provider on 02 July 2025 outlining actions taken to address the risk. The registered provider demonstrated that two staff are registered to attend FAR training which will be completed on 15 August 2025.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) There was a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
  - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced for the inspection. The named person in charge remained on the premises throughout the inspection.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure in place. The manager and staff demonstrated an awareness of their roles and lines of authority within the service.
- (2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of three adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a)(b) References had been sourced from past employers and reputable sources and had a record of verification as required.

(c) Garda Vetting had been sourced. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all other adults employed.

(d) Police Vetting was not required for any of the adults employed by the service.

(4) A record was available evidencing that the adults working directly with the children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or 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.*

*(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) The inspector observed that there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the preschool children.

(2) There were one or two adults working directly with seven preschool children throughout the inspection.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

*(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below.

(a) The name and date of birth of each child.

(b) The date when each child first attended the service.

(c) A section was available for recording when each child ceases attending the service.

(d) The name address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.

(e) Names and contact details of other adults who are authorised to collect the child.

(f) Medical information, allergies, additional needs and other information specific to the child.

(g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.

(h) Immunisation details.

(i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

3(c) The records were made available for 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, and

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs:

Healthy eating was promoted within the service. The children brought a packed lunch from home. Drinking water was available to the children at all times during the inspection. Mealtimes were observed to be relaxed sociable occasions. A hot meal was provided by the service and served on suitable crockery, with suitable cutlery.

Staff responded to children's cues and children were supported and encouraged to be independent with their own personal care.

Children moved about freely both indoors and outdoors, choosing activities.

##### Supporting Relationships around Children:

Staff were observed using positive strategies to promote children's inclusion. In the outdoor area staff supported the children to engage positively, and to take turns and share.

##### Physical and material environment:

The care rooms had a variety of play based materials on low level shelving, accessible to the children. The children were engaged in interactive play with home-made modelling dough, that they made together. This provided a sensory experience and fostered exploration and imagination. Gross motor development was promoted in the outdoor area with the use of ride on toys and playing ball.

##### Programme of Activities:

The care room routines were highlighted on the wall, showing free play time, story time, circle time, mealtimes and outdoor play.

The activities observed on the day of inspection were child led.

Staff informed the inspector that much of the children's artwork and folders had been sent home the previous week, following graduation of preschool children. The inspector observed that, through ongoing observations and familiarity with children's work, staff formed a complete picture of each child.

## 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

(2)(a) There was one first aid box safely stored in a conspicuous place in the service.

(b) There was a fully stocked first aid box in the back Preschool room.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) There was no adult with First Aid Responder training available to the children, as required. An Immediate action notice was issued, and a response was received from the registered provider outlining actions taken to address the risk identified.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Two staff members have enrolled in and commenced the FAR training. This training will be completed on 15 August 2025.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation was submitted to evidence above.

### Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted have been reviewed and deemed to 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 12 June 2025.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) There was no record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced since January 2024. There was no record to show maintenance of the fire alarm and detection system had taken place.
- (2)(c) The records referred to in paragraph (1)(b) were not made available for inspection.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The firefighting equipment has now been serviced, and the maintenance was carried out on the fire alarm and detection system. The records are hanging in the hall and on view.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

The records are now displayed in the hall. It is therefore easier to see when maintenance is due. It has also been added to the calendar.

#### Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted has been reviewed by the inspectorate and deemed to address the non compliance.