

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS231
Name of Service:	Clondalkin Lucan Centre
Address of Service:	CLC St. Loman's Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin
Eircode:	K78 P7W9
Name of Registered Provider:	James Fletcher
Service type:	Drop-In
Date 1 of Inspection:	21/01/2026
Date 2 of Inspection:	29/01/2026

No of pre-school children: Day 1	AM	0	PM	0
No of pre-school children: Day 2	AM	N/A	PM	1

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	O Quill
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	Not applicable
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Description of service

Clondalkin Lucan Centre is registered as a drop-in service and is located in a single storey premises owned by the Health Service Executive (HSE) in an urban area of Lucan west Dublin. A service is provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years. Care of the children is facilitated in one care room provided. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 09:00 and 17:00. An outdoor area is available on the premises for children to play.

Staffing

In total two adults are employed in the service. On the days of inspection both adults were present. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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.

On the first day of inspection no children attended. The inspector completed an inspection of the following Regulations 9 - Management and recruitment, 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres, 25 First aid and 26 Fire Safety measures. On the second day of inspection the inspector inspected Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child and 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the staff and child who was present on the second 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*

(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 had a designated person in charge and a designated person to deputise as required.
- (b) At all times on the days of inspection the designated person in charge and deputy person in charge were present.
- (2) There were no new staff employed since the last inspection on the 29 August 2023. These staff files were inspected on last inspection and were compliant under Regulation 9(2)(a), (b), (c), (d) and (4). On this inspection Garda vetting was reviewed for both staff employed to work directly with the children.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available for both staff employed in the service. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice for the Renewal of Garda Vetting.

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.

(6) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 3 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number 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 registered provider ensured that at all times an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the pre-school.

(6) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times. On the first day of inspection no children attended the service. On the second day of inspection two adults cared for one child.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 13 - Temporary pre-school services and pre-school services in drop-in centres

(1) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service or a preschool service in a drop-in centre shall ensure there are no more than 24 children attending the service at any given time.

(3) A registered provider of a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that no child attends the service for longer than 2 hours consecutively.

(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), (6) For reviewing the records it was evident that no more than four children attend the service at any given time. The records available confirmed no child attends the service for longer than two consecutive hours.

(8)(a) Two adults are rostered to be on the premises at all times.

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

(1)(a) Children's learning development and wellbeing was facilitated within the drop-in service. The room was open plan and thoughtfully laid out with clearly defined areas of interest, including dress-up clothing, a construction area and a home corner. Each area was well resourced and accessible. Warm, respectful interactions were observed between staff and the child. The child was supported to choose activities independently, and staff were observed to engage in play with the child, providing appropriate support to promote learning and development. A suitable cosy area was provided to allow for rest as required.

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 door to the drop-in centre was secure and authorised access was via an intercom system. A video monitoring system was in place ensuring the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- Cleaning agents were safely stored out of children's reach. There were no trailing flexes and storage areas were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and staff maintained a daily cleaning record.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked with illuminated signs and free from obstruction. Staff were familiar with the fire drill procedure when spoken to.

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) Both staff caring for the children had up to date first aid responder training certificates valid until the 26 May 2026.

(2) (a), (b) A suitably first aid box for children was safely stored, easily accessible and available to the children attending the drop-in service at all times.

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) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 01 December 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 04 April 2025 and 05 December 2025 for the smoke alarms.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed on the premises.