

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY007

**Name of Service:** An Cuan Dor

**Address of Service:** 157 Raheny Road, Raheny, Dublin 5.

**Eircode:** D05 X780

**Name of Registered Provider:** Ann O'Shea

**Service type:** Part Time

**Date of Inspection:** 15/05/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	8
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L.A Webster
<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>	Not applicable.
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### Description of service

An Cuan Dor is a privately owned setting located in a residential area in North Dublin. The service offers part time care and education to children aged from 2-6 years from 9:15am-14:15pm, Monday-Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE). The ECCE sessions run from 9:15-12:15pm on a daily basis. There are two care rooms within the service. The first care room; the Pre-Montessori room is located on the ground floor of the main residential house and caters for children aged 2-3years. The second room which is the Montessori room is located at the rear of the residence in a separate space caters for children aged 3-5 years. There is a secure outdoor area that is located at the rear of the property and in front of the Montessori classroom.

### Staffing

The registered employs three staff members and on the day of inspection, three staff members were present, including the person in charge working directly with the children 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.

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 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, 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 a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced and was present for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was evidenced through paperwork on file and in discussion with staff.
- (2) The files of three staff members employed in the service were reviewed.
- (a) Four written and verified references were available from a past employer in relation to three staff members.
- (b) Two written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer for two staff members.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all three staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff employed.
- (d) Police vetting was not required, as no adult had lived in a state outside of Ireland for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that all three staff members who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the minister.

### 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) There were 17 preschool children being cared for by two adults on the morning of inspection. The person in charge was available to offer support as required.
- (3) Ratios were maintained during the inspection. Two adults were caring for 17 children aged 2-5years in the Montessori room.

### 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

- Staff interacted with children through warm, kind and empathetic manners. Kind, low tones of language and directions were used with the children and an example of this was a staff member extending on the children's interests through an orange juice activity and discussion extended to areas in the world where oranges grow.
- Practices such as snack time, handwashing and transitions from outdoors to indoors were observed to be a pleasant experience for the children.
- The activities provided to the children within the room were developmentally age and stage appropriate for the children.
- Children could freely move about the classroom, choosing what equipment or materials they would like to play with.

- Daily routines were visible, and this was reflected within practice.
- Children had their own individual plants growing in the classroom and were observed to check and nurture the progress of their plants, that was located on a low-level windowsill.
- Staff engaged with children through their activities and stepped in when needed. Through discussion with staff, they ensure to provide children with as much independence as possible.
- The transition to snack time was observed to be smooth for the children, as they picked their own lunch boxes from the fridge, moved to a spare table to get an individual plate and sit down with their friends.
- Individually labelled bottles of water were freely available to the children.
- Evidence through observation showed that staff ensured to check children's lunchboxes for any potential choking hazards. This was further evidenced through discussion with staff who were aware of best practices in relation to children's food.
- During outdoor time, staff engage in fun activities with the children and additionally helped when needed.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service ensured that there was adequate and suitable furniture available within the rooms.

- Furniture and equipment in the rooms were in good, durable and clean conditions, and were observed as developmentally appropriate for the ages and stages of the children.
- Designated areas of interests were well resourced and provided children with prompts to engage in various forms of play activities. Areas such as self-care, reading/cosy time, block play, art and crafts and imagination play was evident.
- Both toys and equipment were available to the children's height which supported the children's freedom of choice when accessing chosen equipment and were well labelled.
- In discussion with the person in charge, there were additional toys and equipment available in storage that is rotated within the classrooms, so children are stimulated and develop new areas of interest.
- Outdoor equipment included a range of ride along toys, large connect blocks for building and slides for the children to engage in fun physical activities

### 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:

- Upon arrival, the door to the service was securely locked, which prevented any unauthorised persons accessing the service. Staff must present at the door to allow access into the service through a key locking system.
- Room temperatures were adequate for children and staff at 19.1 degrees Celsius.
- A secure gate within the kitchen area prevented children's unauthorised access.
- All cleaning supplies were kept out of reach of children and appropriately stored away.
- The outdoor garden area was fully enclosed and secure, ensuring a safe play space for the children.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels dispensed from wall mounted units within the sanitary area were readily available for hygienic handwashing and drying.
- Children were observed washing their hands when transitioning from the outdoor area indoors prior to having their snack.
- Shelving within the Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms were in a good condition that allowed for adequate cleaning
- Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used hand paper towels and waste.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection; parental consent was readily available through the services electronic platform should medication be required to be administered to a child.
- The person in charge was familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to a child attending the service.

##### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills had been carried out and the person in charge and staff were familiar with the fire safety evacuation procedures of the service.
- Fire exits were unobstructed

### 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) The person in charge was trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date 27 July 2025 and was immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly within the care rooms.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the children attending the service.

### 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.*
- (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 record in writing is kept of all fire drills that have taken place on the premises, the last recorded fire drill was dated the 15 April 2025.
- (b) There were records available detailing the annual maintenance of the firefighting equipment dated 6 January 2025 and maintenance of smoke detection system in the premises 12 March 2025.
- (4) Notices were visibly displayed, detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.