

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY028

**Name of Service:** Little Stars Creche

**Address of Service:** 116 North King Street, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin

**Eircode:** D07 DW22

**Name of Registered Provider:** Denise Cunningham

**Service type:** Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

**Dates of Inspection:** 27/02/2026

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	5

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne and E Hosford
<b>Title:</b>	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).

**Conditions if applicable** Not Applicable

### Description of service

Little Stars Creche is a community early years service and is located in a single storey purpose-built premises located in Dublin 7. The service provides full day, part time and sessional care to children aged 1 to 6 years of age operating from 9:00am to 16:30pm Monday to Friday. It consists of one large room subdivided into two separate areas; the first area caters for the Baby room for children aged 1 – 2 years and the second area caters jointly for the Toddler room for children aged 2 – 3 years and the Preschool room for children aged 3 – 5 years. The outdoor area is located to the rear of the care rooms

### Staffing

The service employs ten staff to work in the service to include the registered provider who is the service manager, four childcare staff, one staff employed under the Access Inclusion Model (AIM) and two staff employed under a Community Employment (CE) scheme, and a cook.

### 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, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26; These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child, Regulation 16 Record in a relation to a preschool service, 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. The scope of the inspection included the three care rooms.

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 registered provider, 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

*(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

(2) It was confirmed by the registered provider that no new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection on the 3 April 2025. Garda Vetting disclosures for three staff members whose file was reviewed on the last inspection were reviewed on this inspection.

(a) (b) Not applicable.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the three adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Not applicable

(4) Not applicable

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

### Compliance Information

The following policies relevant to this inspection were requested reviewed and in place.

- Healthy Eating Policy
- Infection control Policy

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service.

On the morning of the inspection there were 6 adults working directly with 17 children aged between 1 to 6 years and on the afternoon of the inspection there were 2 adults working with 6 children aged from 3 to 6 years.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

The registered provider was available in a supernumerary capacity and covered breaks in rooms as required.

(8)(a) On review of the service sign in roster for staff, it was observed that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service.

## 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)(a) to (i)

On review of the documentation relating to a sample of ten children’s files within the service, the required information and detail was available and complete.

## 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;
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

### Compliance Information

(1)

- (h) The service maintained accurate attendance by each preschool child on a daily basis
- (i) The service maintained a weekly staff sign in roster to reflect the staff present in the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(k)

1. On review of nine accident and incident forms, information was missing as follows:
  - The date of the parent’s signature was missing from seven forms.
  - The date of the manager’s signature was missing from one form
2. On review of nine incident reports it was observed that a record was not maintained for a child that was involved in six of the incidents. As a result, written confirmation that the parents had been informed of these incidents was not available. This is at variance with the service policy on accidents and incidents.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (k)
  1. Staff meeting held and further training given to ensure forms are fully completed in future.
  2. Staff meeting held and staff informed to complete an incident form for the additional child involved in an accident.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (k) 1. 2. Minutes of staff meeting held 20 March 2026

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non – compliance identified under Regulation 16, has been adequately addressed.

## 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:

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children, prepared by the cook in the kitchen. On the day of inspection, the inspectors observed a hot meal, with a birthday celebration theme of pizza, nuggets and birthday cake, served at 12.00pm in the care rooms. The service has a 2-week menu in place for snacks and dinners.
- Water was available for the children to drink.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable event, with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their age. Children were observed to eat independently, but staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- The transitions between activities such as outdoor play to handwashing before mealtimes to sitting down for dinner were observed to be organised, calm and relaxed with staff available to care for the individual needs of the children.
- Toilet visits were respectful and positive experiences for the children, and staff were observed to encourage the children to be independent in managing their personal care such as handwashing.
- All children had access to the outdoor play area for long periods of time during the inspection.

### Supporting Relationships around children

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of positive affirmations and through use of non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.

### Physical and Material Environment

- Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises was suitable, well maintained and appropriate for children. It is fully enclosed and accessed directly from each care room. The surface of which was covered with artificial soft surface. There was an overhead shelter to enable the children to access the outdoor area during inclement weather. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a table with cars, trucks and farmhouses, dolls in buggies, seesaws, one sensory tray of coloured rice and a sand pit with sand, both with supporting play equipment available.

## 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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured and monitored by staff and the back gate of the outdoor area was secure to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

- No trailing flexes were observed, blind cords were secure and cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The outdoor area was a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.

### Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before and after mealtimes.

### Fire Safety:

- Documentation available demonstrated that fire drills were completed in the service monthly. The emergency exit areas in the care rooms were observed to be unobstructed and clear of any obstacles during the inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for 3 staff members. However, for one staff member, their vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Staff member requested to get all relevant information together to apply for garda vetting clearance. Garda vetting applied for and received. The Registered provider will check all garda vetting's to ensure they are updated every three years

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Copy of renewed Garda Vetting

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non – compliance identified under Regulation 23, has been adequately addressed.

### 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 service provided evidence that nine adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2) (a) (b) First aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous positions in each classroom of the service and were available to the children in the 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 reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 3 February 2026.

(b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment available demonstrated they were last serviced 1 July 2025 and for smoke alarms demonstrated they were last serviced on 24 July 2026.

(4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the walls of the care rooms and throughout the service.