

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Not TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY043
------------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Carousel Day Nursery
-------------------------	----------------------

Address of Service:	Kilmore Road, Artane, Dublin 5.
----------------------------	---------------------------------

Eircode:	D05 C7X8
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Marie Doyle
-------------------------------------	------------------

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

Date of Inspection:	29/05/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM	33
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Griffin
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Carousel Day Nursery is a privately operated service located in an industrial area in North Dublin. The service is registered to provide full time, part time and sessional pre-school care and education to children from 0-6 years from 7:30-6:15pm Monday to Friday. The service currently operates from 7:30am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. There is a kitchen and four care rooms which include the Baby Room, Playgroup room, Montessori 1 room which is also referred to as the Indoor Garden room and Montessori 2 room. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and also offers a registered school aged care service. There is a large enclosed outdoor area to the front of the service which is divided into three sections; two of which are used by the children for outdoor play time.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 18 adults and also works in the service. Staff include thirteen childcare workers two of whom are employed under the aim model, three school aged workers two of whom work in the early years' service during mornings and one of whom provides support to the care rooms during the mornings in a supernumerary capacity, an administrator and a cook.

On the unannounced arrival of the inspector the deputy person in charge, nine childcare staff and one adult who supports the care rooms in a supernumerary capacity were present. Shortly after the inspection began the registered provider arrived and remained on site to help facilitate the inspection process.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby room and Montessori 2 room.

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

29 May 2025

An immediate action notice (IAN) was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection in relation to a significant risk identified under Regulation 23. Further details are available in the body of the report. A response which adequately addressed the concern was received on 30 April 2025.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the registered person confirmed there are currently 18 adults including the registered provider employed in the service. The full file of two adults who were new to the

service since the last inspection on the 8 April 2024 was reviewed along with Garda Vetting disclosures for four adults who work in the service. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) There were three written and validated references available from past employers.
 - (b) There was one written and validated references available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for six 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) Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Documentary evidence showed that one of the two staff whose files were checked worked directly with early years children. Evidence was available to show that this adult held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

Non-Compliance Information

- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that all the procedures specified above under 9(2) had not been carried out prior to the commencement of employment of two adults in the service. Evidenced by the following.
- Garda vetting disclosures were received 1-2 months following the start date of the two staff.
 - Police vetting was received 1 month following the start date of one staff member.

The procedures specified under 9(2) must be carried out in advance of commencement of any adults in the service. This posed a safeguarding risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (3) Staff members had not returned garda vetting emails and it was overlooked by the registered provider at the time to check this. One police vetting disclosure had also been overlooked. The registered provider will follow the correct procedures and ensure this does not happen again.

Supporting documentation submitted

- No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

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) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet the children’s care needs.

- There were nine childcare staff available to care for the 45 children aged one to five years old present on the morning of the inspection. In addition, the registered provider and the one adult who works in a supernumerary capacity were available to provide support when needed.
- There were six childcare staff available to care for the 33 children aged one to five years old present on the afternoon of the inspection. In addition, the registered provider was available to provide support when needed.

(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. For example:

- The roster allowed for staff available to provide cover for breaks.
- Staff reported they were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children in their care rooms.

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)

Basic Needs:

- At morning snack time children who attended sessional service were observed to be offered snacks from home. The service also provided a hot meal option for children which was prepared on site. At dinnertime beef stew with mashed potatoes, sweetcorn and carrots was served at 11.30am. An alternative vegetarian dish and extra portions were available if required. Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- There were cosy areas with a soft mat, cushions and books for rest and relaxation present in the care rooms.
- Identity was promoted throughout the service. For example, there was a 'Birthday Time' display, and the children's artwork were displayed throughout the care rooms in the service.
- Nappy changing was done on a set schedule three times per day and as needed to maintain the child's comfort.
- Children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection. This supported their social, cognitive, and gross and fine motor development.

Supporting relationships with Children:

- Mealtimes observed were sociable events, staff chatted to the children. In the younger rooms children were encouraged to self-feed and staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Children's independence was supported in the Montessori 2 room for example staff were observed to encourage children to tidy up after play time. Staff modelled how to tidy away toys and praised the children for their efforts of tidying up.

- There was a visual daily routine on display and staff were observed to give children verbal and visual reminders in advance from moving from one activity to the next activity. This provided the children with a sense of stability, security, and predictability.
- Numeracy, language and literacy were supported in the care rooms through discussion at circle time, mealtimes and story time. In addition, the children in the Montessori 2 room were observed to engage in a board game which involved numbers as part of small group activity time.
- Staff were able to discuss how they support children with the transition from home to the service with a play area at the entrance of the service where children can play with their parents present before going into the care rooms. In addition, there was a selection of books and toys available in this area for children to borrow and to bring home to share with their families.

Equipment and Materials:

- Child sized tables and chairs were available to the children, providing a comfortable area to eat snacks and take part in tabletop activities.
- The Montessori 2 room had defined areas of interest with supporting equipment. Toys and materials were themed which provided for spontaneous play opportunities. Montessori learning approach materials supporting the areas of practical life, sensorial, language, maths and culture were also present.
- In the Baby room there was adequate space for the babies and toddlers to explore their environment which included a selection of age and stage appropriate toys and equipment such as cause and effect battery operated toys.
- Books were maintained in good condition and displayed at a level suitable for the children to choose and access independently.
- The outdoor area which was equipped with a soft artificial surface and there was a selection of play equipment available such as a slide, a playhouse, a chalk board, ride on vehicles for the children to play with. The children were observed to engage activities such as bubble blowing, chasing games and drawing on the chalk board. This supported the children's social, cognitive, gross, and fine motor development.

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:

- Toys and play equipment used by the children were observed to be safe for the age group, maintained and in good condition.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Medication was stored safely out of the reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, soap and hygienically disposed paper towels. Children were observed to be familiar with the routine of handwashing after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before mealtimes.
- In the care room perishable snacks such as yoghurt and cheese brought by the children from home for morning snack time were observed to be stored in a fridge reducing the risk of bacteria multiplying.
- Foot pedal operated bins were available in the care room and sanitary areas to allow hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- Children had their own individually labelled water bottlers.
- Cots and sleep beds were positioned 50 cm apart, as per best practice guidelines to reduce the potential risk of cross infection.
- Individual bed linen was used for the sleeping children and staff were familiar with the washing schedule.
- Soothers were stored safely, and staff were knowledgeable on how to clean soothers between use.

Safe Sleep:

- Heavy outer clothing was removed from the children before sleep time.
- Children under two years of age were provided with a cot for sleeping. Children over two were provided with individual sleep beds.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over one years of age.
- Children were monitored while sleeping at intervals of 10 minutes or less and staff recorded the breathing, position, and colour of each child at each check.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed throughout the inspection. The children's attendance book was monitored to ensure staff knew how many children were present in the care room. This ensured a safe evacuation of the children in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The garden side entrance to the service was observed to be unsecured. Evidenced by the following.
 - The slide lock on the exit door leading out of the service was at a level accessible to children and could be easily opened. This posed a significant risk if the child were to exit the service unsupervised.
 - The slide lock which was located on the inside of the side entrance was accessible and could be easily opened from the outside due to a manmade hole in the door. This posed a significant risk if an unauthorised person were to open the slide lock and gain unauthorised access to the service.

An immediate action notice was issued on the day of the inspection. A response was received by the registered provider the next day which mitigated this risk identified.
2. A cleaning agent was observed to be stored accessible to children in an unlocked press under the sink in the Montessori 2 room. This posed a potential risk of injury to children. The inspector moved the cleaning agent out of reach of children to a high shelf.
3. A blind cord in the Montessori 2 room was observed to be not secured. This posed a potential risk of injury to the children present.
4. The registered provider did not ensure adequate restriction on a window opening. Shelving under the window made the window accessible to the children which posed a potential risk.
5. The inspector observed two children to eat uncut fruit brought from home at snack time. The size and shape of the fruits observed presented a potential choking hazard. HSE and Tusla guidelines recommend that fruit served to young children must be quartered or halved.
6. One of the five Garda vetting disclosures reviewed were not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'. This posed a safeguarding concern. It is acknowledged that the out-of-date garda vetting was for an adult who does not work directly with the children and works remotely for majority of the time.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The registered provider recognised immediately what the inspector noticed and fixed it on the day of the inspection by getting the gate lock to a height beyond a child's height making it inaccessible.
2. Cleaning agents were removed immediately on the day of the inspection and were put out of reach of children. Management discussed with staff the importance of keeping cleaning products out of reach of children.
3. The windows now have blind cord holders. The registered provider will ensure all windows have blind cord holders from now onwards and has also bought extra ones just in case they are required in the future.
4. Window restrictors have been installed on windows. The registered provider will ensure all windows have window restrictors from now onwards.
5. Management has discussed with all staff, and it has been agreed that all fruits will be examined and cut to a safe sized from now onwards. All staff have been instructed to be extra vigilant when cutting foods to appropriate sizes for safety.
6. This staff member no longer works in the service. The registered provider will follow the correct procedures and ensure this does not happen again.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence of the gate lock heightened.
2. Photographic evidence of sign on unlocked press 'no cleaning agents to be stored here'.
3. Photographic evidence of blind cords secured.
4. Photographic evidence of window restrictors in place.
5. Photographic evidence of sign in care room to remind staff to cut fruit.
6. No supporting evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on a shelf in the care room.
 - (b) The first aid box was observed to be easily available to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) On review of the staff roster, it was observed that there was no adult with First Aid Responder (FAR) training available to the children between 7.30am to 10.30am. It is acknowledged that ten adults employed in the service are trained in paediatric first aid and two adults hold a qualification in First Aid Responder (FAR). However, on the morning of the inspection an adult with FAR training certification was not available at all times to meet the regulatory requirements.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) This was an oversight by the registered provider; two adults have FAR training and the registered provider will ensure that the adults with FAR training will not be off together in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

- No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 25.

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 record of monthly fire drills was available in the service. The most recent fire drill took place on 16 May 2025.
 - (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced on 19 August 2024. Smoke alarms were serviced on 9 December 2024.
- (2) (a) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the care rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for the number of children attending the service with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.