

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY061		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Doras Buí		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Doras Buí, Bunratty Drive, Coolock, Dublin 17, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D17 TF63		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Anita Whelan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/04/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	59	PM 44
<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, 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

Doras Buí is a community-based service located in the Family Resource Centre in Coolock, Dublin 17, established in 1996. The service operates from 8:30am-6pm and provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 0-6 years. The service has 4 care rooms; the Waddler room (14 months to 2 years), Toddler room (2 to 3 years), Preschool room 2 (3 to 5 years) on the ground floor, and the Preschool room 1 (3 to 5 years) on the first floor. The service has one sleep room with four cots present. There are two outdoor areas – one to the front of the premises accessed by the Waddler room and one to the rear of the premises accessed by the Toddler, Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection there were 19 adults working in the service to include the registered provider, the person in charge, deputy person in charge, one kitchen staff, one receptionist and 14 childcare staff working directly with the children to include one staff member employed under the Access and inclusion Model.

### 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 the regulations.

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment(2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2),

Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool service (i), (j), (k),

Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of child (1) (a),

Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool service, Regulation 23 - Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child and Regulation 11- Staffing Levels was assessed across all of the rooms.

The scope of the inspection included two rooms – Waddler room and Preschool room 1 and did not include the Toddler room and Preschool room 2.

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, 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

*(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 designated person in charge that two new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection.

The files of the two adults were reviewed as part of the inspection.

In addition, garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all adults employed.

(2)(a)(b) Four written and validated references were available in relation to the two adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 29 adults employed. The service also demonstrated compliance, with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not applicable as Police vetting was not required as the two adults had not lived outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

### 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) On the day of inspection, there were 14 adults working with 59 children in the morning and two adults working with 14 children in the afternoon.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

The adult child ratios during the morning session were maintained as follows;

**Rang 1 :** 2 adults to 20 children aged between 1 - 2 years.

**Toddler Room:** 3 adults to 14 children aged between 2-3 years.

**Preschool 1 Room:** 3 adults to 17 children aged between 3 -5 years.

**Preschool 2 Room:** 3 adults to 17 children aged between 3 -5 years.

with two additional staff present to support break cover and nappy changing.

The adult child ratios during the afternoon session were maintained as follows;

**Waddler Room:** 3 adults to 8 children aged between 1 - 2 years.

**Toddler Room:** 2 adults to 12 children aged between 2-3 years.

**Preschool 1 Room:** 2 adults to 12 children aged between 3 - 5 years.

**Preschool 2 Room:** 2 adults to 12 children aged between 3 -5 years.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises.

### 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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

- (h) details of attendance by each preschool child on a daily basis was available.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (i) While it is acknowledged that a staff roster was available which detailed the working hours of each staff member and the staff available for cover. It did not demonstrate an accurate representation of the rooms each staff member work in on a daily basis. For example, one staff member who was absent on the day of inspection was on the roster as present and assigned to care rooms.
- (j) On review of 14 medication record forms with 27 individual medicine administrations recorded, the following information was missing:
  - The parent pre consent signature was missing from two of the forms reviewed.
  - The second staff witness signature was missing from 2 medicine administrations given.
  - The full name of the staff member was not recorded on four medicine administrations given.
- (k) On review of 20 accident and incident records available the following information was missing:
  - The date of the parent’s signature was not recorded on seven forms.
  - The date of the staff members signature was not recorded on two forms.
  - The manager’s signature was not recorded on 13 forms.
  - The date of the managers signature was not recorded on two forms.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (i) New Roster drawn up with Staff who have left service taken off and replacement staff added. Reception staff will make sure all changes are made as well as adding holidays and sickness on a weekly basis.
- (j) All staff spoken to at a staff meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding fully completing report forms. Senior workers will oversee this, and managers sign off once a week after checks are done.
- (k) All staff spoken to at a staff meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding fully completing report forms. Senior workers will oversee this, and managers sign off once a week after checks are done.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- (i) Copy of updated Roster submitted.
- (j) Minutes of Staff meeting held 29 April 2024 submitted.
- (k) Minutes of Staff meeting held 29 April 2024 submitted.

## Summary Comment

Under Regulation 16, the non-compliances outlined above, have been 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

**(1)(a) Basic Needs:**

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children. On the day of inspection, the inspectors observed; morning snack at 11am of crackers with butter and cheese spread and fruit, lunch at 1pm of mashed potatoes, fish fingers and spaghetti hoops prepared in the kitchen of the service. Staff informed the inspectors that an afternoon snack is served at 3pm of soup or fruit or yogurt. Extra food was available and different dietary requirements were catered for if required.

- Water and milk were available in each care room for the children to drink.
- Mealtimes observed were relaxed and sociable events, with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their ages, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Children from all care rooms were observed to enjoy outdoor play for long periods of time during the inspection, the Waddler room children had use of the outdoor area to the front of the service and the children from the Toddler room, Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2 had use of the larger outdoor area to the rear of the service.

### Supporting relationships with Children:

- Staff were observed to be interested in the children and their play, and interacted with them in a playful, engaging manner. They were responsive to the children and were observed to give them choices regarding their play activities.
- Staff engaged with children in a calm and friendly manner and calling children by their name.

### Physical and Materials Environment:

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and suitable to the needs of the children. There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room. Cosy areas with soft seating, soft mats and cushions for rest and relaxation were present.
- The Waddler room was laid out well with areas and materials accessible and available for exploration and discovery.
- In the Waddler room, the play materials available to the children included: home areas with play kitchen with supporting equipment and play food, range of construction toys to include wooden puzzles, jigsaws, building blocks; toys for transporting such as trucks; small world play toys of dolls, dolls clothes, animals; sensory play of two sand trays with supportive equipment of spades; for gross motor play a climbing cube with slide; Arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children.
- Two outdoor play areas were available for the children. Outdoor play area 1 to the front of the service used by the Waddler room had an artificial grass surface; the equipment and toys available included a climbing frame with a slide and climbing wall, bikes, seesaws, balls, a dolls pram, a sand tray and a picnic table. Outdoor play area 2 to the rear of the service used by the Toddler room, Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2 had a soft artificial grass surface with a concrete path for bike riding : the equipment and toys available included a large climbing frame with two slides, a bridge ramp with two tunnels underneath the bridge for gross motor play, a picnic table , wooden blocks, wheel barrow, seesaws, trikes,

bikes with pedals and balance bikes, a clear plastic board for painting , a blackboard for drawing and a sensory wire board for threading and weaving. Outdoor play area 2 also had an 'inside out room which has equipped with chalkboards, two large sand pits with supporting equipment, two mud kitchens with supporting equipment and large boxes of plastic building blocks.

### Non-Compliance Information

1. In the Preschool room 1, there was no supporting equipment available or accessible for the following play equipment: the wooden castle, the playschool, the doll's house or for the big or small dolls.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The toys as mentioned were removed until suitable accessories are sought and bought, in the meantime new equipment has replaced these toys.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

This non-compliance as outlined above under Regulation 19, has been addressed.

## 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:

- Access to the service via the front door was monitored by reception staff employed by the service. A secure door which operated on a buzzer system preventing unauthorised access into the service and unauthorised exit from the service.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of inspection.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.

- Flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children.
- Both outdoor play areas were enclosed securely and had locked gates.
- The outdoor play equipment and materials were observed to be safe and suitable for use by the children.

### Infection Control:

- Soothers were cleaned daily and stored in individual labelled containers in each individual child's labelled basket of belongings and used at sleep time.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children under two years were facilitated to sleep on floor beds when their needs dictated for sleep. Children over two years need for sleep and rest were met through the provision of low beds and comfortable rest areas available in the care rooms.
- Sleep plans were available for six children under two years who were sleeping on floor beds or on floor contour beds.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Children were provided with cellular blankets for sleep.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed for each child's position, colour and breathing pattern.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire Drill records showed that the service had completed monthly fire drills.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Children attendance books were not monitored to ensure staff knew how many children were present in the care rooms or during outdoor play, as follows:
  - In the Preschool room 1 on the first floor, there were 17 children observed to be present at 10.53am, on review of the attendance book there was only 16 children marked as present.
  - Staff from Preschool room 1 on the first floor, did not bring the room attendance record book with them, when 17 children had outdoor play between 11.30am and 1pm.

This reduced the effective evacuation in the event of an emergency.

2. Presses were observed to be unlocked with unsafe materials accessible to children, as follows:
- In the Preschool room 1, suncreams, cleaning agents and salt were accessible on low shelves in unlocked presses in the care room,
  - In the Toddler room, personal items of staff were accessible as they were stored at a low level in an unlocked press in the care room,

this can lead to a risk of safety and injury.

3. The surface of the wood panelling used on the stairway leading from the care room into the Waddler outdoor area was observed to be unfinished, which created a potential risk of injury or wood splinters to the children.
4. The temperature of the Waddler care room before sleep time and during dinnertime, was recorded by the inspector as follows:

Room	Temperature	Time
Waddler Room	23.6 ° C	at 11.37am
	23 ° C	at 1.35pm

which is not within the recommended temperature of care rooms, of 18-22 °C.

5. The bin on the wall on route to the outdoor play area to the rear of the service was cracked, leading to a risk of injury.

### Infection Control:

6. In the cot room off the Waddler room,
- there were two loose nails accessible at the window beside a cot, leading to a risk of injury.
  - four mattresses of the cots did not have removeable wipeable covers to reduce the potential risk of cross infection, but it is acknowledged that this room and cots were not used by the children during the inspection.
7. The nappy changing area of the Waddler room was congested with toys as follows: construction bench, activity blocks, dolls buggy and with a mop and bucket, leading to a risk of cross infection.
8. In the Preschool room 1, the nappy changing observed procedure was not in line with best practice as follows:
- The child's hands were not washed after nappy changing.
9. In the Preschool room 1 and the sanitary facility of the Preschool room 1, two pedal bins had broken pedals and therefore the children had to use their hands to open the bins, leading to poor infection control.

10. In the two sanitary facilities of the Preschool room 1, the toilet paper was stored on the back of the toilet, making it inaccessible to children and leading to poor infection control.
11. In the Cosy room off the Preschool room 1, one beanbag was present with a torn cover, leading to ineffective cleaning and a safety risk.
12. In the Lobby area outside the Preschool room 1, mops, buckets, and brushes were stored, leading to poor infection control.

### Safe Sleep:

13. The temperature of the Waddler room while children slept was not recorded to ensure it was maintained between the recommended 18-22°C and at sleep time the temperature was recorded by the inspector as follows:

Room	Temperature	Time
Waddler Room	22.7 ° C	at 2.50pm

which is not within the recommended temperature of 18-22°C while children sleep.

14. Five floor beds and low beds were not positioned 50 cms apart at sleep time increasing the risk of cross infection.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. All staff spoken to at a staff meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding fully completing attendance books. Spot checks done on all rooms in different locations of building to check numbers and sign in sheets by managers and senior Early years practitioners.
2. New locks in place on press doors and extra locks were ordered to make sure always a supply available for breakages of locks.
3. The surface of the panelling has been covered with artificial grass and maintenance man will upkeep this with wear and tear.
4. Care room temperature is now taken same as cot room temperature throughout the day.
5. The bin has been removed.

### Infection Control:

6. The two nails have been removed and the loose unit on the wall fixed to the wall and six new washable wipeable mattress covers purchased and spot checks will be completed by managers on all areas.
7. Area cleared and spot checks will be completed by managers to make sure this does not happen again.
8. All staff spoken to at a staff meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 regarding completing nappy changing in accordance to the service nappy changing policy, senior workers in all rooms will oversee procedures are being followed at all times and request training for staff that needs support.
9. New bins bought for rooms and spare bins available in storage for any breakages.
10. All toilets roll & blue roll holders replaced in whole service due to breakages. Also, two portable blue roll holders purchased for outside play.
11. Removed and disposed of on the day of inspection.
12. All mops, buckets and brushes have been removed.

### Safe Sleep:

13. Sleep check list revised and temperature check added for every 10 mins. Also heating thermostat lowered due to mild weather.
14. Room layout reviewed and beds repositioned to ensure 50cms apart at sleep time.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Minutes of Staff meeting held 29 April 2024 submitted.
2. Photographic evidence submitted.
3. Photographic evidence submitted.
4. General Room Temperature log submitted.
5. Photographic Evidence submitted.

### Infection Control:

6. Photographic Evidence and proof of purchase invoice submitted.
7. Photographic Evidence submitted.
8. Minutes of Staff meeting held 29 April 2024 and copy of the service nappy changing policy submitted.
9. Photographic Evidence submitted.
10. Photographic Evidence submitted.
11. No Evidence submitted.
12. Photographic Evidence submitted.

## Safe Sleep:

13. Copy of Sleep record submitted.
14. Photographic Evidence submitted.

## Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliances outlined above have been addressed.