

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY067

**Name of Service:** Edenmore Early Education Centre

**Address of Service:** Tonlegee Road, Donaghmede, Dublin 5,

**Eircode:** D05 H74H

**Name of Registered Provider:** Jennifer Moore

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 19/06/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	18
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
<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

Edenmore Early Education Centre is a not-for-profit service that is located in a residential area in North Dublin. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged from 2 years to 6 years and operates from 08:30am – 3:30pm Monday to Friday during the school term. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is a purpose-built two-story building and is comprised of four care rooms. The care rooms include:

Room name	Age group
Bright Star Room	4-5 years
Rainbow Room	3-4 years
Sunshine Room	4-5years
Butterfly Room	4-5years

Additionally, the service has three rooms located on the second floor that include a theme room, a sensory room and a gross motor playroom that are available on a daily basis for all children to engage with. A secure outdoor area is located to the rear of the service and is directly accessible from all care rooms on the ground floor. There is an office, staff room, kitchen and sanitary facilities available within the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider works within the service and employs 14 adults that work in the service. This includes a deputy person in charge, 9 childcare staff, and four ancillary staff which are the administrator, chef and two housekeepers. On the morning of inspection there were 12 adults present including the registered provider, 9 adults working with the children, administrator and chef.

### 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 registered provider, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) A review of the roster evidenced that 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 this was further evidenced through discussion with staff.

(2) A review of paperwork and discussion with the registered provider showed that there are currently 14 staff employed by the registered provider to work within the eservice. The files of 2 new staff members who had commenced employment following the previous inspection on the 15 November 2023 were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff that are currently employed within the service.

- (b) There were 4 written and validated references from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 15 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) There was no evidence to suggest that either of the adults required Po

(4) Evidence was available to show that 2 adults 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.*

*(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 28 children being cared for by 8 adults in the morning and 18 children being cared for by six adults in the afternoon. Additionally, the registered provider was available to provide support in the care rooms as needed.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children within the rooms. The following was observed:

- In the Bright star room, there was two adults caring for 6 children.
- In the Rainbow room, there was two adults caring for 9 children.
- In the sunshine room, there was two adults caring for 5 children.
- In the Butterfly room, there was two adults caring for 8 children.

### 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

(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

19 (1) (a) (b)

#### Basic Needs:

- The care rooms atmosphere was calm and relaxed, with children comfortably moving freely around their environments.
- The activities that were provided to the children within the care rooms were developmentally age and stage appropriate.
- Throughout the inspection, children were observed to be visibly happy and content within their environments.
- The service provided a hot meal option for the children that was prepared freshly on site, mince stew, mashed potatoes and vegetables were served at 11:57am. In discussion with staff, extra food was available if required and alternative food options for children were available. Water was available in each care room for the children to access.
- Mealtime was observed to be a warm, and social interaction, with children and staff using their imaginations to build a 'dinner volcano' with their food and eating it.
- The children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection and staff ensured appropriate sun wear including hats and sunscreen was applied due to the warm weather on the day.
- Practices such as transitions from indoors to outdoors were observed to be a pleasant experience for the children.
- Displays such as 'Family Walls' 'Birthday Walls' and children's artwork were displayed within the care rooms, and it was evident that the service emphasised the children's sense of belonging and identity.

### Supporting Relationships:

- It was observed that staff spoke to each other in a respectful and professional manner, demonstrating positive interactions to the children.
- The staff ensured to consistently interact with the children. For example, prior to dinnertime a staff member was reading a story to the children through a fun and interactive way. Children were able to ask questions about the story and the images the pictures portrayed which was extended upon by the staff member.
- Interactions between staff and children were observed to be kind, supportive and friendly. This was particularly evident when a staff member was engaged in conversation with a child outdoors and politely paused with the child to speak to a guardian who had arrived for collection and then returned to the child to finish their discussion.
- Staff were observed to extend on children's interests through questions for example a staff member asked, "I know you love Harry Potter, I also love it too, who is your favourite character?". This validated the child's interest and showed the staff members support of the child.

### Equipment and Materials:

- The layout of the care rooms facilitated choice and spontaneous play opportunities for the children. Toys and equipment were accessible through low level shelving and were visibly labelled.
- The care rooms were thoughtfully designed, with designated play areas for the children to engage with.
- There was an adequate number of tables and chairs to accommodate the developmental age and stage of children within the care rooms.
- The outdoor play area was available to all children and was designed with a soft ground surface. It was observed as a spacious and well-designed area that prompted various play scenarios for children.
- There was a solid wooden slide structure that was anchored to the ground and designated areas of interest such as a sand area, construction area, reading/cosy area, climbing area and a small planting area for person friendly flowers to grow.

### 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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured upon the inspectors' arrival. The service entrance operated through a buzzer system that allows entry into a main reception area. The exit to the service is controlled by a key fob, that staff wear to attend to the door to allow people to exit the service. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service without staff knowledge and prevented any unsupervised children leaving the service.
- The outdoor area was securely fenced, and gates were locked to ensure safe outdoor play. In addition to this, the sand area had an appropriate cover and hooks to ensure the unauthorised access of pests when not in use.
- Toys and equipment outdoors were observed to be in good condition.
- The care rooms were observed to be in good condition, with no visible hazards or trailing wires.
- Blind cords were securely attached to the wall.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and locked away out of reach of children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and the door remained closed throughout the inspection.
- In discussion with staff, the service operates a nut free zone. Additionally, staff reiterated their knowledge and understanding of beaded jewellery and ensured that it would be immediately removed if observed within the service.
- Firmly anchored handrails were provided on the stairs, which is used to access the first floor. The staircase was well maintained and free from hazards, with clear signage indicating which side to walk on.

##### Infection Control:

- Upon arrival, it was observed that the service was clean and hygienic and up to date cleaning schedules were available and observed within the care rooms and sanitary facilities.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and wall mounted paper towels were available for appropriate hand washing practices.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.

- An ambient temperature of 16-22°C was maintained in the care rooms, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to children attending the service.
- Observation showed that medication was stored safely and out of reach of children.
- In discussion with staff, it was evident that they were aware of medical care plans for children and where the emergency medication is stored. In addition to this, staff were aware of the procedures to take in relation to potential anaphylaxis and the administering of emergency treatment if the event occurred

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed throughout the inspection
- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

## 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 of May 2026 and was immediately available to the children attending the service. Additionally, the person in charge ensured that three staff held up to date FAR certification and were immediately available to the children as needed.

(2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the adults caring for 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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on the 28 May 2025.
- (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
- Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on the 23 January 2025
  - Records demonstrate that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly bases with the last service taking place on the 29 January 2025.
- (4) A visual notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was consistently displayed around the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.