

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY108
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Larkin Childcare Facility
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	57/58 North Strand Road, Dublin 3, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	DO3 XT26
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Maria Tyrrell
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/08/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM	7
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<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>	E Hosford
<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

Larkin Childcare Facility is a community service which provides a sessional, part time and full-time service to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age and operates from 8:30am to 2:30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a converted three storey residential premises that offers a range of services to the local community on the north side of Dublin city. There are two care rooms, namely, the Wobbler room/ Front room and the Toddler room/ Back room, along with a sensory room, service kitchen for the preparation of snacks and meals, an administration office and an outdoor area to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider is not involved in the daily running of the service and employs a designated person in charge, a deputy person in charge, a housekeeper and four childcare staff. There were four staff working directly with the children during the inspection.

### 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

The unannounced inspection focused on an examination of compliance under The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4),
- Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(2)(8)(a),
- Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child,

- Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,
- Regulation 25 First Aid and
- Regulation 26 Fire Safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child  
Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment and Regulation 11 Staffing levels were assessed in all 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated 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*

#### Compliance Information

(2) The staff files of seven employees employed in the service were reviewed.

(a)(b) Two validated written references were available for the seven staff employed and working in the service from recent past employers or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for seven staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available from four countries in respect of one staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available six staff members working with the children had evidence to demonstrate that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were four adults working with eight children in the morning and seven children in the afternoon of the inspection.

(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained on the day of inspection as outlined below.

- **Wobbler room-** 2 adults were caring for 4 children aged 2-3 years.
- **Toddler room-** 2 adults were caring for four children aged 2-3 years in the morning and three children in the afternoon.

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

### 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 10 children's files within the service, the required information and detail was available and complete.

### 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 Wobbler and Toddler rooms had space for movement and exploration with low-level shelving units to enable the children to access equipment and play materials independently. The furniture provided for meals and tabletop activities were appropriate for the children attending.

- Throughout the rooms natural, open ended play materials were available to the children such as play kitchens, dolls, dress up table, activity areas with cars, trucks, blocks and bricks. These materials promote the use of all the children’s senses and can provoke exploration, curiosity and creativity.
- Each child’s identity and belonging were reinforced within the service with the use of the children’s pictures along with their extended family. This can provide familiarity and comfort to children. Children’s pictures were used to identify their belongings such as drinking cups and change of clothes. Family pictures were displayed throughout the rooms in a position accessible to the children. Staff were familiar with the children and their families and referenced them throughout the session.
- The outdoor learning environment comprised of an enclosed area with a soft poured surface. Appropriate clothing and footwear were provided to the children, and they enjoyed the opportunity to play with sand trays, ride in cars, balls, dolls, cars, trucks, steps and slides and balance beams. The children were observed to engage in physical and risky play experiences under the supervision of adults which can promote dispositions such as curiosity and exploration and fundamental movement skills such as running and balance.

### 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) A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) certification was available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) and (b) A first aid box was suitably equipped, accessible and available 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 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) The last recorded fire drill that took place in the service was on the 31 July 2024.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms was present in the service, both were serviced in August 2024.
- (4)
- A notice of the fire procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency were clearly displayed in the main hallway of the service and the two care rooms.