

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY117			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Blossoms Crèche			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	163 Tonlegee Road, Raheny, Dublin 5, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D05 XD61			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Olive Glanville			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/12/2025			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	24
<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			
<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).

**Conditions if applicable**

Not Applicable.

### Description of service

Little Blossoms Creche is a private service providing a sessional, part time and full-time service to children aged from 3 months to 6 years of age and operates from 7.30am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a converted two storey residential premises in Dublin 5 and consists of three care rooms, namely, the Baby room, Wobbler room and the Preschool room, which is divided into ECCE 1 and ECCE 2. The children have daily access to the Garden room to the rear of the service for alternative play opportunities. An enclosed outdoor area was available to the children to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider, seven childcare staff and a maintenance person are employed in the service. The registered provider was not assigned to a care room but was available to assist staff and children if required.

### 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 9, 11, 19, 23, 25 and 26.

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

Regulation 11 Staffing levels was assessed across all rooms.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included all three care rooms, the Baby room, Wobbler room and the Preschool room with ECCE 1 and ECCE 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 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

*(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

The files of nine staff members employed within the service were reviewed.

(a) Twelve validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Six validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 9 staff members employed in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for one adult working directly with the children who had lived outside of the state for six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Eight employees working directly with children in 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.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(2) (d) Police vetting disclosures were not available for three staff members who had lived outside the State as an adult for more than 6 consecutive months.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (d) One staff member no longer works for the service, last date of employment 23 December 2025.

One staff member obtained the correct Police vetting required.

One staff member confirmed that they had not lived outside of the state as an adult for more than 6 consecutive months, they worked abroad on short contracts and did not live abroad.

All new staff that have worked overseas for more than 6 consecutive months in any given year will have the correct vetting documents in place and is now part of the staff criteria check list in staff file.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(d) One required Police vetting.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and the evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 9, has been adequately addressed.

### 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

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

- **Wobbler room:** 2 adults were caring children aged 1 years 6 months to 2 years 6 months as follows - 6 children in the morning up to 11.30am, 7 children between 11.30am and 1.00pm, from 6 children in the afternoon from 1.30pm and one adult cared for 5 children between 1.00 to 1.30pm.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present on the premises during the operation of the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

1) There was an insufficient number of adults available to meet the needs of the children in the Baby room between 1:00pm and 1:10pm as one adult cared for 5 children aged 11 months – 2 years. This had a negative impact on the individual care needs of the children in a timely manner.

For example.

- At 1:00pm, three children between the ages of 1-2 years were standing in their cots in the cot room. The children were crying and upset. Although the staff member was looking through the cot room window periodically, there was no available adult to settle them to sleep as the staff member was supervising the remaining 2 children in the care room and could not go to them. As a result, three children had intermittent episodes of crying and upset. The inspector had to intervene and inform the registered provider that a second staff member was needed.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio was not maintained in the service as the times below outlines.

- In the Preschool room, from 1.10pm to 1.30pm, there was 2 adults caring for 17 children aged 3 -5 years of age, 3 adults were required.
- In the Preschool room, from 2.55pm to 3.11pm there was 1 adult caring for 15 children aged 3-5 years of age, 2 adults were required.

Insufficient adult to child ratio's poses a potential risk to the safety of children

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(2) The staff roster has now been changed going forward so no staff member will leave a room under ratio to cover another room for any reason. The staff roster will be set out to ensure that the ratios of all rooms will be met, however the registered provider will assess each morning that staff to roster requirements are met allowing

for unforeseen circumstances, a service closure will be implemented if required.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

(1)(2) None

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 11 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. On the day of inspection, the inspector observed a hot meal served at 12pm in the care rooms supplied by an external food company, which was chicken curry with rice. Between 2.55pm and 3:10pm, afternoon tea was served which was pancakes with fruit.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- Nappy changing and toileting 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.
- The transitions between activities such as nappy changes, sleep time, mealtimes, free play and outdoor play were observed to be calm and relaxed.
- Cots, low beds and floor mats with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep. At sleep time, the rooms were darkened to provide for a restful environment.

### Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed to be engaged with and sit with the children during play time and having positive interactions during play activities. They were responsive to the children and were observed to give them choices regarding their play activities.
- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of clear directions, soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.

### 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 Garden room provided opportunities for the children to have sensory play with large trays of sand and art and crafts with supporting equipment to include paint, brushes, sponges, paper and an art easel.
- The outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises were fully enclosed, an artificial soft tile surface. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a climbing frame with a slide, a playhouse, blackboards, a slide, and a seesaw.

## 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 inspector, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

- The outdoor area was a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children to included poles covered with secure foam padding.
- Four mattresses had safety labels with washable wipeable surfaces.
- No trailing flexes from devices in the service.

### 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 nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.
- During sleep time, cots in cot room and low floor mats were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child

### Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low stackable beds and floor mats.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- The temperatures of the cot room and care rooms were documented and maintained between the recommended temperatures of 16-20 °C while a child under 1 years old slept and 18-22 °C while children over 1 years old slept and during the day.

### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the outdoor area, a wooden post on the wooden bridge was broken, leading to a risk of injury.

#### Infection Control:

2. Nappy changing was not completed as per the service nappy changing policy and best practise guidelines, for example – the following practises were observed during nappy changing:

- Same apron was worn for three nappy changes by one staff member.
- The staff member wore the apron into the care room to bring each child back into the care room and to collect another child for nappy changing.
- Gloves were not removed in a timely manner during each nappy change.

### Safe Sleep:

3. In the Preschool room, no sleep checks were recorded on three children who slept between 12.45pm and 2.25pm, leading to a risk of safety while children slept. It is acknowledged that staff were present in the care room with the children while they slept.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. In the outdoor play area, the wooden post is now fixed and secured to bridge.  
The service has an ongoing and regular maintenance practice in place, this item would have been picked up and fixed under this practice,

#### Infection Control:

2. The registered provider had a debriefing of the Tulsa inspection with all staff and in particular the importance of infectious control and nappy changing. Updated nappy changing routines have been placed in all nappy changing areas to adhere to best practice in infection control measures when doing a nappy change, regular spot checks as reminders to staff to keep up best practice will be completed.

#### Safe Sleep:

3. The preschool room now have a sleep check record implemented. All staff are now aware that there is a sleep record check in place and to be filled in on the occasion a child falls asleep, in accordance with safe sleep measures.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Photographic Evidence

#### Infection Control:

2. Nappy changing routine

#### Safe Sleep:

3. Sleep record

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 have 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

(2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service

## Non-Compliance Information

(1) On review of the staff files and the service roster it was observed that the one staff member within date First Aid Responder (FAR) training was not available to the children at all times during the service operation hours. No staff member with (FAR) was available to the children from 7.30am to 9.00am and from 5.00 pm to 5.30 pm on the day of inspection. It is acknowledged that five staff members present in the service held paediatric first aid certificates.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) A FAR certificate with an expiry date of 11 December 2025 for a person present on the day was submitted through the CAPA process. The service now has six staff with FAR this will cover the service operating times.

## Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) FAR Cert dated with expiry 11 December 2025.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 has been adequately addressed

## 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 available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 21 November 2025.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced 12 May 2025 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced 13 November 2025.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in a conspicuous position in the service