

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY122			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little People's Academy Ltd			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Eccles Court, Hill Street, Dublin 1, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D01 X773			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aifric Paul			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	12/02/2025			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	35	PM	31
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Little People’s Academy is a private childcare service which offers full time, part time and sessional education and care to children aged from 0 to 6 years. The service operates from a purpose-built building on the ground floor of residential apartment accommodation and is situated in an urban, residential area of Dublin 1. The hours of operation are from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday, operating inside the registered hours of 7.45am to 6.15pm. The service has six care rooms, namely; Wobbler 1 room, Wobbler 2 room, Toddler 1 room, Toddler 2 room, Preschool 1 room and Preschool 2 room. The service has one designated cot room. The children have access to an outdoor area to the rear of the service

### Staffing

The registered provider employs 22 adults. On the day of inspection there were 20 adults working in the service to include the person in charge, 18 childcare staff working directly with the children and a cook. The registered provider does not work in the service.

### 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, 16, 19, 23, 25, and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool service (j), (k), 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 Wobbler 1, Wobbler 2, Toddler 1, Toddler 2 and Preschool 1 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

(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 registered provider ensured there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
  - (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2) It was confirmed by the person in charge that ten new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection. The files of the ten adults were reviewed as part of the inspection along with Garda Vetting disclosure for one staff member whose file was reviewed on the last inspection.

(a) Two written and validated references were available for five adults from a past employer.

One written and validated reference was available for five adults from a past employer.

(b) One written and validated reference was available for five adults from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for eleven adults. The service had also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for ten staff who have lived outside of the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the ten 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) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as follows:

There were 16 adults working with 36 children in the morning and there were 11 adults working with 31 children in the afternoon.

(2) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service as follows:

Morning:

- Wobbler 1 Room - 2 adults to 4 children aged between 1 years to 2 years,
- Wobbler 2 Room - 2 adults to 2 children aged between 1 years to 2 years,
- Toddler 1 Room - 2 adults to 4 children aged between 2 years to 3 years,
- Toddler 2 Room - 3 adults to 7 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 3 years,
- Preschool 1 Room - 2 adults to 4 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 3 years 6 months,
- Preschool 2 Room - 5 adults to 14 children aged between 3 years 6 months to 5 years, with one additional adult available in a supportive role where required.

Afternoon:

- Wobbler 1 Room - 2 adults to 3 children aged between 1 years to 2 years,
- Wobbler 2 Room - 1 adult to 2 children aged between 1 years to 2 years,
- Toddler 1 Room - 1 adult to 4 children aged between 2 years to 3 years,
- Toddler 2 Room - 2 adults to 6 children aged between 2 years 6 months to 3 years,
- Preschool 1 Room - 2 adults to 5 children aged between 2 years 8 months to 3 years 6 months,
- Preschool 2 Room - 3 adults to 11 children aged between 3 years 6 months to 5 years,

The person in charge was available in a supportive role where required

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

## 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

- (1)
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was completed accurately in attendance record books.
  - (i) Staff roster was available demonstrating hours each staff worked.
  - (j) A review of twelve medication administration records demonstrated that all the details were completed on each record.
  - (k) A review of ten accident and incident records demonstrated that all the details were completed on each record.

### 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 inspectors observed a hot meal served between 11.00am and 11.15am in the care rooms supplied by an external food company, which was beef ragu with potato chips. Between 2.30pm and 2.45pm, afternoon snack, made in the service kitchen, was served which was chicken, ham or cheese sandwiches with fruit.
- Water and milk were 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 with staff available to care for the individual needs of the children.
- All children in each room were observed to enjoy outdoor play during the inspection.
- Children's need for sleep and rest were met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available. Cots and low beds with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep. At sleep time, the rooms were darkened and soft music played to provide for a restful environment.

##### Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies such as being at the children's level.
- Staff were observed to be engaged with and sit with the children during play time and having positive interactions during play activities of modelling dough and plastic bricks. They were responsive to the children and were observed to give them choices regarding their play activities.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.

- Communication with parents is through poster notes on the door of the service, completion of daily report forms for each child with details of each child's sleep, food intake and other information required and also through a message application on a phone.

### 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 outdoor play environment to the rear of the premises were fully enclosed, the surface of which was covered with artificial grass There was an overhead shelter to enable the children to access the outdoor area during inclement weather. The outdoor toys were suitable and available and included a climbing frame with a slide, a playhouse, blackboards, a slide, a mud kitchen, ride on tractors, ride on bikes and seesaws.

## 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 inspectors, 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.
- Ten mattresses had safety labels and washable wipeable surfaces or covers.
- Lights had safety shatter proof covers present.

### 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 and after mealtimes.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in accordance with the service policy.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled boxes.
- During sleep time, 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 floor mats.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept
- The temperatures of the cot room and care rooms were documented and maintained between the recommended temperatures of 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

## 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 service provided evidence that four adults trained in First Aid Response were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions in 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 15 January 2025.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced on the 30 October 2024 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 12 August 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises