

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY129
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Lollipop Lane
-------------------------	---------------

Address of Service:	19 Moyle Road, Dublin Industrial Estate, Dublin 11
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D11 EV81
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Paul Byrne
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date(s) of Inspection:	05/02/2026
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	34
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson and L.A. Webster
Title:	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

Lollipop Lane is a full day care service located in an industrial estate in Dublin 11 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 70 children aged 1 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service from 9.15am to 12.15pm and 9.30am to 12.30pm and also offers part-time care.

Lollipop Lane operates from a converted two storey industrial building and has five care rooms. On the ground floor is the Baby Room (12 to 18 months old), Toddler room (18 to 24 months old) and Playschool room (2 to 3 years old) and on the first floor are Pre School rooms 1 and 2 (3 to 6 years old). There are sanitary facilities located on each floor, and a cot room, sleep room and kitchen located on the ground floor. Further sanitary facilities are available for staff. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 17 staff to work in the service, including the person in charge, a chef, an administrator and 14 staff who work directly with the children. There were 14 staff present on the day of the inspection including the person in charge, the deputy person in charge, the chef, and 11 staff working directly with the children. 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following:

- Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment
- Regulation 19 (1)(b)-Health, Welfare and Development of child
- Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child
- Regulation 25 First Aid
- Regulation 29 Premises

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby, Playschool, Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 rooms. Regulation 11 was inspected against all rooms. The outdoor play area was not inspected as there was no access to the outdoor play area on the day of the inspection due to damage from weather the night before the inspection.

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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the roster showed 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 outlined on the staff roster.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that two new staff members had been employed since the previous

inspection and these new staff members worked directly with the children. The files of these staff were reviewed, in addition, Garda vetting disclosures for three adults whose file has been reviewed on the previous inspection held on the 3 March 2025 were requested for review.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Two validated written references were available from recent past employers.
 - (b) Two validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all five reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Documentary evidence was available that established that no adults required international police vetting.
- (3) Documentary evidence available showed that all of the checks outlined in (2) had been carried out prior to any of the adults having contact with the children in the service.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available that established that the two new staff who worked directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of staff available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs.

- There were 13 staff available to 49 children present on the morning of the inspection.
- The person in charge and deputy person in charge provided support in the rooms during transitions such as nappy changes.

(2) Qualified staff were available and adequate staff to child ratios were maintained correctly throughout the inspection. For example:

- There was an additional qualified staff member available to provide cover in the rooms while staff took their break.
- The person in charge and deputy person in charge was available to provide assistance for breaks thereby maintaining ratios during break times.

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-

(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

(1)

(b) The registered provider ensured the following practices were in place:

- Documentary evidence, discussion with staff and observation established that nappy changing and toileting practices were regular and timely. These practices were observed to be respectful experiences for the children, where children were invited for nappy change or reminded to use the toilet. Children who were potty training were positively encouraged for their efforts.
- Documentary evidence, discussion with staff and observation established that mealtimes were regular and pleasant experiences for the children. Children were observed to have a hot meal of chicken goujons, vegetable and potato cubes, with additional portions available on request. The mealtime was observed to be relaxed where children were observed to eat their meal at their own pace. Younger children were supported to self-feed and supported when required.
- Children had access to drinking water in their care rooms.
- Staff attended to children's personal care needs in a timely manner, for example clothing was changed immediately when wet, and dirty noses were tended to immediately.
- Daily routines were available and were reflected in practice.
- Transitions between activities were observed to be smooth, where staff were familiar with their roles, and worked to prepare the rooms in advance of a transition. For example, the room was prepared in advance for sleep while a staff member supported children during dinnertime. New children transitioning into the service are supported by a staggered settling-in process.
- Engagement with families and parents was facilitated via an online software application and conversation at drop off and collections.
- Staff were observed to use positive verbal and nonverbal strategies such as song, repetition, touch, questioning and encouragement to facilitate positive behaviours in children.

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 service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the rooms was observed to be adequate for the number of children in the rooms, it was appropriate for the age range and stage of development of the children, and was well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home areas, construction, sensory trays and library areas.
- Each of the themed interest areas were well resourced with a range of props and materials visible and accessible to the children.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, which facilitated a range of play experiences including creative, imaginative and language play. Equipment and furniture was available to facilitate cruising and early walking skills in the Baby room.
- Images of the children and their families were displayed throughout the rooms, on a low, accessible level for younger children, and children had labelled coat hooks and cubbies for their belongings.

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

The following measures were observed to be in place to safeguard children:

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secured when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service. Entry was managed and monitored by staff which restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Blind cords throughout the rooms were observed to be secured.
- A risk assessment had been completed for damage to the roof of the outdoor play area which occurred the previous night and an appropriate control measure was put in place.

Infection Control:

- Staff were observed to support children to handwash before meals.
- Staff were observed to model appropriate infection control practice for coughing and sneezing.
- Suitable foot-pedal operated bins were observed in use throughout the premises.
- Children's cups and beakers were individually labelled.
- An up-to-date checklist was available which detailed regular laundering of bed linen, and staff reported being aware of the practice.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were familiar with the administration of a medication to a child who required ongoing medication, and a review of documentation showed this was recorded appropriately.

Safe Sleep:

- All children had access to suitable sleep facilities and children under the age of 2 years were observed to have access to a cot, in line with safe sleep guidance.
- A log was maintained where the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children was checked every ten minutes.
- A log was maintained where the temperature of the sleep room was recorded on a daily basis.

Fire Safety:

- All emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed.

- The children's attendance was recorded in an accurate manner which can facilitate the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- A box of suncreams stored in an unlocked press which was potentially accessible to children posed to risk of harm if ingested or rubbed into the skin or eyes.
- The water temperature in sinks on the ground floor used by the children exceeded the recommended temperature of 43°C. This posed a potential scald risk to the children. The following temperatures were recorded:

Room	Time	Temperature in °C	Required Temperature °C
Nappy change room – left sink	10.41am	45.1°C	Less than 43°C
Nappy change room – left sink	10.41am	45.7°C	
Children's toilets – both sinks	10.50am	44.8°C	
Baby Room	11.57pm	44.7°C	

- A child's lunch from home which was observed to contain perishable dairy food such as cheese and a yogurt was not observed to be stored in a refrigerator. Dairy products should be stored refrigerated to prevent food from spoiling which can potentially result in illness if consumed by young children.

Infection Control:

The following increased the potential risk of infection:

- One of the cots, which was observed to be in use on the day of the inspection, did not have a mattress protector in place. This can increase the potential risk of cross contamination. It is acknowledged that mattress protectors were fitted on the 12 other cots in use in the service.
- The flooring in the ground floor nappy change room was damaged, leaving a gap exposed which can cause a build-up of dirt and debris and limit effective cleaning. Documentary evidence was available to show that this risk had been identified by the service and plans were underway for this to be addressed.
- There was a build-up of dust on the ventilation fan in the ground floor nappy change unit, which can reduce the effectiveness of the ventilation fan in the room

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The items were immediately removed from the press. A meeting was held with the relevant staff regarding unlocked presses, and a maintenance checklist is maintained regarding locks.
2. The thermostat has been corrected, and the temperatures are now reading correctly. Water temperatures will be logged and monitored by management.
3. A meeting was held with staff advising of requirement to refrigerate perishable foods. The service will provide all food, and a small fridge has been purchased to provide storage for those who wish to bring a lunch from home.

Infection Control:

4. All cots were rechecked and the mattress protector was sourced. The cots will be monitored by management to ensure mattress protectors are in place.
5. There are plans underway for flooring to be fitted in the service on the 28 March, which is to include the nappy changing room. The flooring will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
6. The vent was cleaned immediately. The maintenance list for vents checks was changed from monthly to weekly in order to prevent a build-up of dust.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Documentary evidence.
2. Documentary and photographic evidence.
3. Documentary evidence.

Infection Control:

4. Documentary evidence.
5. Documentary evidence.
6. Documentary evidence.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider address five of the six non-compliances identified. The finding documented at points 5 will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 a person trained in First Aid Responder training was always available during the operational hours of the service.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the service and there were signs displayed indicating this. Staff reported being aware of where the first aid box was stored.
 - (b) The first aid box was easily accessible and readily available.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated.
 - (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (c)
 - Windows provided natural lighting to the care rooms, this was supplemented with artificial ceiling lights which were fitted with protective covers.
 - The sanitary accommodation was fitted with an operating mechanical ventilation system.
 - The rooms were observed to be adequately heated within the required temperature range of 18 to 22°C and radiator covers were secured to all accessible radiators.

(e)

- There were suitable and adequate sanitary facilities available for the number of children present. One toilet and one sink is required for every 11 children who use a toilet and one nappy change unit, and one sink is required for every 11 children in nappies.
- Liquid soap and dispensed paper towels were available at all sinks in use.