

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY154
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Nurture Childcare & Early Learning Centre
-------------------------	---

Address of Service:	The Collinade Dept of Education & Science, Marlbrough Street, Dublin 1, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D01 RC96
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Ciara Gallagher
-------------------------------------	-----------------

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

Date of Inspection:	09/02/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	28
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford and Á Dunne
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Nurture Childcare and Early Learning Centre was established since 2008 in its current location in Dublin 1. It is a private service which provides sessional, part-time and full day care and education to a maximum of 38 preschool children aged from 0 to 6 years. The service operates from a two-storey building which has three care rooms, all of which were in use on the day of inspection; the Baby room on the ground floor along with an office, kitchen and sanitary accommodation and the Toddler room, the Montessori room, sanitary accommodation and second kitchen are on the first floor. An enclosed play outdoor area is available to the front of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs ten staff within the service to include the designated person in charge and nine childcare staff. The designated person in charge facilitated the inspection and was also available to staff for support when required. Three students were participating in a work placement programme in the service. The registered provider attended the closing feedback meeting remotely on the day of 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

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19 and 24. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Toddler and Montessori rooms and did not include the Baby room.

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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received by the inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, designated person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(2) The files of eight staff members employed in the service and three students on work placement were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures for ten staff members were also reviewed.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

- (a) Seventeen validated written references were available from a past employer for staff and students.
- (b) Five validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer for staff and students.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for ten staff members and three students on work placements in the service. The service 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 from eight countries in respect of seven staff members and one student on placement who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) Eight staff members who worked directly with the early years children had documentary evidence of 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, Disability and Equality.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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) During the inspection there were 7 adults and 1 student on work placement working with 33 children in the morning and 28 children in the afternoon.

- Baby room -2 adults working with 8 children aged 0-2 years in the morning and 7 children in the afternoon.
- Toddler room- 3 adults working with 8 children aged from 1-3 years of age in the morning and in the afternoon.
- Montessori room-2 adults and 1 student on work placement working with 17 children aged from 3-4 years of age in the morning and 13 children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) On review of the service roster it was observed that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- Children attending the service were provided with a hot meal of spaghetti bolognese at lunch time with staff observed sitting with the children and engaging in conversation in a friendly and relaxed manner. Staff were familiar with the children and their individual food preferences. A choice of water or milk was available to drink at mealtimes and drinks were stored in an accessible position while the children played.
- Children were supported and assisted with toilet visits and nappy changing. Staff were observed to engage with the children in a positive manner during nappy changing.
- Children's need for sleep and rest was met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available. Low beds with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep and at sleep time, the rooms were darkened to provide for a restful environment.

Physical and Material Environment

- 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. Low level shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence in the care rooms.
- The care rooms were bright and inviting spaces with children's artwork, family pictures and birthdays clearly displayed for the children to see.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Rest areas were present in the rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The outdoor area used by the children was equipped with space for running and games, scooters and bikes, balance beams and balls.

Supporting Relationships around children:

- Staff were observed engaging with the children in a positive and relaxed manner. Children were guided with clear instructions with reinforcement and encouragement given when required. Any minor disputes between the children were dealt with fairly by staff who gave explanations and explained boundaries to the children.
- Verbal engagement and communication was held with parents at drop off and collection with staff updating them on their child's day to include meals eaten and developmental achievements.
- Planned activities in the care rooms inspected were observed to be child led which promoted each child's independence and preference to undertake activities at their pace and interest.
- Staff in the care rooms worked well together in supporting the children and providing child led care.

(3)

- No practices that were deemed disrespectful, exploitative, harmful or neglectful were observed during the inspection in the two care rooms inspected.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

(1) The arrival and departure time of children in the Toddler and Montessori rooms were reflected in the care rooms by staff who recorded them in an electronic application and roll book.

(4) A record of visitors to the service was available and retained for a period of one year from the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(b) On review of available documentation and on discussion with the designated person in charge it was confirmed that all visitors to the service did not sign in on arrival and departure from the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3)(b) In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that all staff were made aware that everyone who visits the centre for any reason including interviews, maintenance, parents etc must sign in and out in the visitor's book.

Supporting documentation submitted

(3)(b) Documentary evidence of visitor book available in service.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified in the inspection report.