

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY154		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Nurture Childcare & Early Learning Centre		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Collinade Dept of Education & Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1		
<b>Eircode:</b>	D01 RC96		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Gallagher		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/12/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	30	PM n/a
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	N McEndoo		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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.		

### 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 building.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs nine staff within the service. On the day of inspection, the designated person in charge and seven childcare staff were present in the service. The designated person in charge facilitated the inspection and was also available to staff for support when required. 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.

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, 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that five new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. All new staff members worked directly with the children. In addition, Garda vetting for one staff member whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was requested for review.

The five files for new staff were reviewed, and the following information was noted.

- (a) Six written validated references from past employers for five of the adults.
- (b) Four written validated references from a reputable source for four adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for five adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(3)

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

(4)  
Five of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

### 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)  
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2)  
The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 30 children present in the service being supervised by 8 adults during the inspection.

(8)(a)  
The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced by the roster provided.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

All meals and snacks within the service are supplied by an external catering company. An extensive menu plan is available and shared with parents. Meals were observed to be nutritious and varied throughout the day and reflective of the menu provided. Breakfast, two hot meals and two snacks are served per day. The hot meals are reheated by staff onsite. On the day of inspection, an adequate amount of food was available to each child, with second portions available if needed. An alternative is provided should a child refuse a meal. Water and milk were available to children with their meals

## 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:

- The main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Safety gates were present in the hallway and the stairwell to prevent children from accessing the kitchen off the baby room and the staircase unsupervised.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair. No hazards were observed within the care rooms.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- Highchairs within the baby room were fitted with a 5-point safety harness and were in good state of repair.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall metal fencing and a bolted gate.

## Infection Control:

- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.
- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Foot pedal bins were observed throughout the premises.
- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Older children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks, meals and after nappy changing.

## Administration of Medication:

- When discussed, staff were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication. No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

## Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children.
- Sleep checks were observed to occur every ten minutes by staff.

## Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed within the premises.
- There was evidence of regular fire drills occurring.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.

## 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 registered provider ensured that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, available to the children at all times while attending the preschool service. There were three adults employed who held in date FAR certificates, with expiry dates ranging from October 2026 to March 2027.

(2) (a)(b)  
Suitably equipped first aid boxes were securely stored, and clearly identifiable, in each care room. The first aid supplies were sufficient to meet the needs of the number of children in attendance. The equipment was readily accessible for use in the event of a medical incident involving a child.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

### Compliance Information

The required adult: child ratios were adhered to during the inspection. The children were supervised by the adults mainly by sight. Staff in care rooms were observed to sit with the children at mealtimes and supervise them closely. Children were supervised when sleeping as evidenced by written records of physical sleep checks which were completed every ten minutes and observed the position and breathing pattern of the child. Regular headcounts were observed to be carried out by staff during periods of transition. The outdoor play area was arranged to maintain clear lines of sight and sound, supporting effective supervision and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children.