

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015DY224

**Name of Service:** Tigers Childcare

**Address of Service:** St Vincents Primary School, Philomena Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

**Eircode:** D11 HX78

**Name of Registered Provider:** Therese Noonan

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 16/10/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	N/A
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**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate  
2nd Floor, Unit 4/5  
The Nexus Building  
Blanchardstown Corporate Park  
Ballycoolin  
Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

**Inspection undertaken by:** C Kerrigan

**Title:** 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

Tigers Childcare is a privately run childcare service which is located in St Vincent's Primary School in Dublin 11. The service is registered to provide a sessional preschool care and education up to a maximum of 22 children aged between 2-5 years old.

The service operates from 9am to 12pm, Monday to Friday 38 weeks of the year. The service is also registered to provide school aged childcare in the afternoons.

The service consists of a care room, with shared sanitary facilities and a large enclosed outdoor area situated to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs three childcare staff to work within the service; this includes a person in charge and two early years workers. The registered provider does not work within the service.

All three adults were present on the day of inspection.

The operations manager and the registered provider attended the closing meeting.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to a pre-school service.

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

(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)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
  - (b) A review of the roster showed that a named person in charge or a person to deputise is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.
- (2) The files of the three adults working within the service were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that two written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that four written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.

- (c) The registered provider ensured that garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the three adults working within the service, the service adhered to the re vetting timeframes as outlines in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) The registered provider ensured that police vetting was available for the three adults who had resided in a state other than the state of Ireland for a period longer than six consecutive months.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to any adult being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that the three adults employed within the service to provide direct care to the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Ireland Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children during the inspection, as there were three staff working with two early years children.
- (3) On the day of Inspection, it was observed that the correct adult to child ratio was maintained, as there were three staff members working directly with nine children aged between 2-5 years old.

(8)

- (a) A review of the staff rosters available demonstrated that two adults were on the premises during the operational hours of the service.

### 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:*

*(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.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that records was available in writing of (i)(j)(k).

(i) A paper copy of the staff roster was available within the service; this accurately reflected the adults present on the day.

(j) Medications are not routinely given within the service however the registered provider ensured that there was a medication administration record available when needed.

(k) A review of six accident and Incident forms available were found to be fully completed with all necessary details included.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the relevant records were available within the premises for the Inspector on the day of inspection.

### 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

(1)

(a) The registered provider ensured that children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated in the service, for example.

#### Basic Needs

- Children were provided with a lunch during their time in the service. Children's lunches were prepared at home and brought into the service. on the day of inspection children were observed to have a selection of fruits, sandwiches with meat, salad and cheese, crackers and pasta. Mealtimes were observed to be a social experience at a pace that suited the children, adults also sat with children modelling positive mealtime habits.
- Children were provided with appropriate clothing during outdoor play, adults ensured children were appropriately clothed for the inclement weather ensured comfort in the play experience.
- Children were observed to have unrestricted access to the toilet, this was both scheduled and as needed.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if the children wished to engage in more restful activities.

#### Supporting Relationships

- A key worker system is in place in the service, and these key groups were displayed in the classroom. A key worker system allows staff to develop in depth knowledge about the children in their group and fosters nurturing relationships helping children to feel confident.
- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a responsive, warm and respectful manner. Sitting with children and involving themselves in the children's play experiences. This provides opportunities to support children's learning and emotional development.
- The service operates an open-door policy with parents, with pick up and drop off times being used to share information about the child's day. This is also supported by a software application which provides direct updates to parents on topics such as toileting, food and activities.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for the children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low level units which nurtured independent and facilitated choice.
- The children had access to an outdoor play environment which was accessed at the rear of the premises. The outdoor space had an assortment of equipment to include picnic benches, scooters, tricycles, construction toys and stepping blocks giving a range of option to develop problem solving and gross motor skills.

### 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 to the service was secured upon the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service and access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered. Therefore, preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons.
- The care room remained closed with an internal lock fitted and a high handle in use therefore preventing children from exiting the service into the adjoining corridors unsupervised.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- A written water temperature record was kept indicating that water temperatures accessible to children were recorded below the recommended 43°C.
- The renovated outdoor area was fully secured with wooden and metal fencing and a high wall, therefore preventing children from exiting the area unsupervised.

#### Infection Control:

- Children's lunches brought in from home were refrigerated upon arrival to the service, preventing the growth of harmful bacteria.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand washing purposes, ensuring good hand washing practices.

#### Administration of Medication:

- Medications are not routinely given within the service; adults were able to demonstrate the safe administration of medication if required
- Temperature reducing medication was available for use onsite safely stored.

### Fire Safety:

- Adults ensured that children's attendance records were kept up to date and reflected the time of attendance and collection of each child within the service. Therefore, ensuring accurate records in the event of an emergency.
- Fire exits were unobstructed on the day of 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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) was available to children during the operational hours of the service.

(2)

(a) The registered provider ensured that an aid first aid box was easily accessible and in a conspicuous position within the premises.

(b) The registered provider ensured that the first aid box was readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the pre-school service.

## 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 registered provider ensure that children were supervised on the day of inspection. The following was observed

- Adults were observed to supervise children by sight and sound whilst using the sanitary facilities. Adults were observed to take into consideration the individual needs of each child during this time, assistance was provided when required.
- Adults were observed to sit with children supervising mealtimes, thus ensuring safe meal practices.
- The transition from the care room to the outdoor area was controlled with adults observed to frequently complete a head count. Adults then positioned themselves at each end of the line of children to ensure constant visualisation during this period of mobility.
- In the outdoor area adults positioned themselves so children were visible at all times.