

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY230		
Name of Service:	TNN Creche Ltd		
Address of Service:	1 Loughderg Road, Raheny, Dublin 5.		
Eircode:	D05 HP93		
Name of Registered Provider:	Camilla O'Connor		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	16/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM 28
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8.		
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster		
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

TNN Creche Ltd is a private, two-storey converted residential service that is located in Dublin North. It is a full day care service that operates from 8:00am to 18:00pm Monday-Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. It consists of three care rooms namely Preschool 1 that is located on the second floor, the Tweenies room that is located on the first floor and Preschool 2 that is located on the first floor. Additionally, there is an office, kitchen and sanitary facilities. There are two secure outdoor areas for the children to play which are at the left-hand side of the service, and the right-hand side of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 12 staff including 1 person in charge, 2 deputy persons in charge, 7 childcare staff and 2 ancillary staff members who are the chefs. Additionally, the registered provider works within the service in a supernumerary position on a part-time basis. On the morning of inspection there were 9 adults present, including the 2 deputy persons in charge 6 childcare staff and 1 ancillary staff member. Shortly after the inspection commenced, the registered provider arrived and remained at the service to help facilitate the inspection process.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child, Regulation 19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

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, deputy 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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of the roster evidenced that either the person in charge or the deputy persons 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 further evidenced through discussion with staff.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with the person in charge showed that there are currently 12 staff employed by the registered provider to work within the service. The files and qualifications of all staff were reviewed. Additionally, the registered providers file was reviewed.

- (a) There were 17 written and validated references available from past employers.
 - (b) There were 9 written and validated reference from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for 3 adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that all 10 adults who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the Minister.

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 36 children being cared for by 7 adults in morning and 28 children being cared for by 6 adults in afternoon. Additionally, the deputy person in charge was available to provide support in the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children within the rooms.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of ten children’s records were reviewed as part of the inspection. All records contained the required information as required under (a)-(i) above.

(3) (c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

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

(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) (a)(b) The following care practices to support the children's health, welfare and development.

Basic needs:

- Individually labelled beakers of water were available throughout the care rooms for children at all times.
- Children were kindly prompted by staff to support gentle nasal cleansing. This was also observed with younger children who were supported through fun methods of 'hiding their coughs' into their elbows.
- Staff were observed to tend to children's needs in a prompt and discreet manner such as toileting, washing hands and nappy changing.
- Daily routines were positioned throughout the care rooms, highlighting what the children were engaging with on the day, and were gently reminded by staff throughout the morning.
- It was observed that staff engaged with children through various types of play and stepped in when needed by the children. Additionally, it was observed that staff would ask open-ended questions to gently challenge their thinking. It is important for children to broaden their knowledge of the world around them.
- Staff were observed to be kind and gentle in their interactions with the children and ensuring that their voices were heard. This was evident during story time when the staff member would pause to answer each child's question and extending upon their learning.
- Mealtimes were observed to be fun and interactive. Staff ensured to sit beside the children and engage in meaningful conversations. The children's hot meal consisted of chicken curry and rice which was in line with the services menu on the day. In discussion with staff, additional portions were available and alternative meal options for the children.
- Cosy corners were available in the care rooms to allow children to rest as needed.

- During sleep time, the blinds were pulled and ambient music softly played in the background to support a gentle transition into sleep.

Supporting Relationships:

- A strong sense of teamwork was identified throughout the inspection and staff ensured that this was modelled to the children to support their ongoing learning.
- Staff were observed to use kind and warm tones when speaking to the children and were positive in their approaches. This was evident throughout the day and when children were smoothly transitioning from outdoors to indoors and for smaller transitions such as moving from activities, mealtimes and handwashing.

Physical and Material Environment:

- Developmentally age and stage appropriate tables and chairs were present throughout the care rooms to allow children to engage in tabletop activities and mealtimes independently and comfortably.
- Designated play areas were spaced throughout the care room to allow children to engage at various stations.
- Toys and equipment were stored on low level shelves which supports various types of independent play and were themed for children to identify and choose from.
- The outdoor areas provided opportunities for a range of play experiences for the children. Medium sized climbing and slide units were available for the older children along with ride on toys and building blocks. For the younger children's garden, there were various ride and push along toys, a mud kitchen and a drawing easel for arts and crafts.

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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured upon the inspector's arrival. The service entrance operated through a buzzer system that allowed entry into a main hallway and was monitored by staff to ensure the unauthorised access or any unsupervised children leaving the service. Additionally, both outdoor areas were securely fenced and gated.
- The care rooms were seen to be in good condition, with no visible hazards or trailing wires observed.
- Blind cords were securely attached to the wall and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and locked away out of reach of children
- Shelving units and radiator covers were firmly anchored to the wall to ensure stability and safety.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and the door remained closed throughout the inspection.
- Outdoor equipment was observed to be in good working order, with no visible wear and tear.

Infection Control:

- Upon arrival, it was observed that the service was clean and hygienic and up to date cleaning schedules were available and observed within the care rooms and sanitary facilities.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and wall mounted paper towels were available throughout the service for appropriate hand washing practices. Both staff and children were observed to show familiarity with routine handwashing after nappy changing, outdoor play, dinner time and after free play
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained throughout the care rooms, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.
- Within the sanitary room, children had individually labelled storage areas for their nappies, creams and wipes to avoid any cross contamination.
- Upon observation, it was evident that children had individual bed linen that was clean and in good condition.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to children attending the service.
- Observation showed that medication was stored safely and out of reach of children.
- In discussion with staff, it was evident that they were aware of medical care plans for children and where the emergency medication is stored in the event of a child needing a medical care plan. In addition to this, staff were aware of the procedures to take in relation to potential anaphylaxis and the administering of emergency treatment if the event occurred.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were noted to be aware of safe sleep practices and children were observed to be monitored while sleeping every 10 minutes. Staff ensured to document this through electronic format highlighting the children's breathing, position, and colour of each child.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over two years of age.
- Low level sleep equipment was provided for sleeping children over two years of age and were observed to be in good condition. Beds were adequately spaced at 50cms apart.

Fire Safety:

- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

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 deputy person in charge was trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date of October 2025 and was immediately available to the children attending the service. Additionally, the registered provider ensured that five staff held up to date FAR certification and were immediately available to the children as needed.
- (2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the adults caring for children attending 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 firefighting 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) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on the 5 August 2025.
 - (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
 - Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on the 8 September 2025

- Records demonstrate that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly bases with the last service taking place on the 8 September 2025.

(4) A visual notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was consistently displayed around the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.