

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY278
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Cranford Creche
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	151 Rathgar Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D06 ND61
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Emmett Rice
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	20/01/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	45	PM	45
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. Harte and L.A Webster
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Cranford Creche and Montessori is a privately owned service offering full time care and education to children aged from 0 to 6 years and operates from 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme and caters for a maximum of 53 children. The service is based in a converted residential dwelling in a residential area on the south side of Dublin city. There are five care rooms over three floors and outdoor play areas at the front and rear of the premises. The basement consists of Nursery 1 and Nursery 2 with an adjacent cot room. On the first floor is the Toddler room and the Yellow Pre Montessori room. On the second floor Top House Montessori class use two adjoining spaces which children move between. The building also has a kitchen, staff room and an office.

### Staffing

The registered provider currently employs 13 staff to work in the service including the designated and deputy persons in charge, a cook and 10 early years professionals. On the day of the inspection there were 13 adults present including the deputy person in charge, cook and a student

### 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 and Regulation 21. As a result, the scope of the inspection included Baby room, Wobbler room, Toddler room and Top House Montessori.

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 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 if required.
  - (b) A designated person in charge was available on the premises on the day of the inspection for the operating hours of the service.
  - (c) There was a clear management structure in place and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management confirmed there was 4 new staff members employed since the last inspection. The full file of 4 new staff members, 1 student and 1 extracurricular tutor who was present the morning of inspection and the garda vetting disclosure of 4 existing staff members was reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
- (a) Six written and validated references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Six written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for ten 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 was available for three 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 four staff members who worked directly with the children held 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.

### 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 the inspection there were an adequate number of adults available to the children attending the service to meet their care needs. There were 12 adults caring for 45 children present on the morning of the inspection.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. The designated person in charge was available in a supernumerary capacity to assist in the care rooms as required.

### 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 records were reviewed of children attending the service. All of the ten sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3) (c) The records were available in the premises for the inspectors to 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-*

*(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 following practices were observed in place to support the children attending:

- Signage on the main entrance door requested visitors to call to upper-level floors during scheduled sleep times. This helped support a restful environment for younger children during sleep times.
- Children's heavy clothing was removed before sleep to support comfort. Staff were observed to sit alongside children and use gentle encouragement for them to lay down for sleep.
- Mealtimes were observed to be social occasions and children were given ample time to enjoy their meal. Staff advised how the cook prepares the meals daily. The main meal on the day of inspection was chicken stew with mashed potatoes followed by yogurts and afternoon tea was sandwiches.

- Drinks stations were present in the care rooms for children to access water throughout the day. Milk was offered as a drink during dinner time.
- Children had individual placemats with photos that detailed their favourite meals and dietary requirements.
- Staff actively engaged with the children throughout the day and joined them in conversation and play. The interactions were calm and pleasant.

## 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 were 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 in the rooms.
- In the care rooms the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were grouped in themed areas of interest to support play such as construction and small world. Themed areas of interest facilitate children to have a more focused engagement in their play experiences.
- The care rooms included areas with soft furnishings and cushions providing a space for children to take a break from activities.
- 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 and promoted exploration and curiosity.

### 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 service entrance was secured when the inspectors arrived unannounced. A buzzer and intercom system allowed staff to identify visitors before granting access to the premises.
- A low-level handrail was in place on staircase to assist children.
- Cleaning agents were safely stored out of children's reach.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were supported to wash their hands before mealtimes. Both staff and children showed familiarity with the routine of handwashing.
- Foot pedal bins, hygienically dispensed soap and hand towels were available to support effective hand hygiene practices.
- A colour coded system was in place for cleaning cloths to help prevent cross contamination.
- Children's drinks were individually labelled.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Emergency medication was clearly labelled and stored out of children's reach but accessible to staff in the event of an emergency.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff conducted physical checks on sleeping children and used a form to document the child's colour, sleeping position and breathing.

##### Fire Safety:

- Attendance records were accurately maintained on the day of inspection. This practice helps support safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed throughout the premises.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The sink in the Top House Montessori sanitary area was not secure and had a sharp edge with posed a potential risk of injury to children.

2. In the Toddler room trailing flexes accessible to children from a fan, charger and thermometer posed a potential risk of injury. This non-compliance was observed on the previous inspection in January 2025. The preventive action has not been maintained in line with the information provided to the inspectorate following the last inspection.
3. A damaged blind in the Baby cot room posed a potential risk of injury. It is acknowledged that this was removed on the day of inspection when brought to the attention of staff by the inspector.
4. The service was operating in variance with their risk management policy by not completing and documenting daily risk assessments of classrooms and sleep areas. The practice of completing comprehensive and regular risk assessments helps identify potential hazards and reduce potential risk to children.

### **Infection Control:**

5. Two tables in the Top House Montessori room were damaged with exposed chip board which prevented effective cleaning and posed a potential infection control risk.
6. A floor mat in the Toddler room was torn with foam exposed which prevented effective cleaning and posed a potential infection control risk.
7. Areas in the Top House Montessori room were visually dirty and required a deep clean to support effective infection control measures. The following was observed:
  - The radiator positioned at the front area of the room was heavily coated with a thick layer of dust and debris.
  - The rug in the library area was visibly stained.

### **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

#### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

##### **General Safety:**

1. Maintenance was carried out and the whole unit underneath the sink was replaced.
2. Meeting was held with staff to remind them of the dangers of low wires in their rooms. This was also shared in the service monthly memo. Management have removed any unnecessary wires from this level and secured another up high out of reach.
3. The blind was removed from the sleep room until it was properly installed by a maintenance worker.
4. Management have added daily safety/health assessments along with daily garden assessments.

**Infection Control:**

5. Management recognises the potential infection control risk and has ordered new tables to replace the damaged ones.
6. The floor mat has been disposed of.
7. The radiator has been cleaned externally and internally, and a new mat has been ordered. Management held meetings staff to ensure this does not re-occur and to be kept clean.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

- Photographic evidence.
- Template documents.

**Infection Control:**

- Order invoices.
- Photographic evidence.

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

**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.*

**Compliance Information**

- (1)
- (a) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated and staff members reported that fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 10 December 2025.
  - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises was available. The certificates reviewed showed that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 23 September 2025 while the smoke alarms had been serviced on 14 January 2026.