

TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

Inspection Due to a Proposed Change of Circumstances

Tusla I.D.: TU2015DY282

Name of Service St Vincents ECDS Daughters of Charity

Address of Service: Ballyfermot and Palmerstown Primary Care Unit,
Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, D10 C973

Email Address: tracey.monson@docharity.ie; admin@docharity.ie

Name of Registered Provider: Tracey Monson

Type of Proposed Service:	Full Day Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Part-Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sessional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Drop-In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Childminding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>

Proposed change: Change in age profile from 2-6years to 6months – 6 years and addition of a new preschool room

Proposed Number of Children: 65 (Max 59 Full Day/Part-Time)

Recommended Change Following Inspection: Change in age profile from 2-6years to 6months – 6 years and addition of a new preschool room

Registered change: Change in age profile from 2-6 years - 6 months – 6 years
Additional preschool rom.

Date of Inspection: 2 8 0 7 2 0 2 5

Inspection undertaken by: L. Magee & O. Quill

Title: Early years Inspector

Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address: Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin

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Rationale for Inspection:

Proposed Change of Circumstance

Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office

Registration Status:	Registered Full Day, Part-Time & Sessional for 65(Max 59 Full Day/Part-time) Children
Date of Registration	30th September 2025

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Description of Service	St Vincent's ECDS Daughters of Charity provides fulltime, part time and sessional care to children aged 2 to 6 years between 9 am – 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday.
Premises	The building is purpose built for childcare in the St. Vincent's Early Childhood Development Centre on the grounds of Ballyfermot Primary Care & Mental Health Centre Campus in Ballyfermot Dublin 10. Currently there are four preschool rooms, a sensory room, office, kitchen and communal dining room. The preschool rooms are called Hawthorn (Baby room), Beech room (Toddler/ ECCE room), Sycamore room (ECCE room) and Ash room (ECCE room). The service has 3 outdoor areas, two of which are partially covered for use in all weather conditions.
Staffing	Eight adults were present on the day of inspection. This included the person in charge deputy person in charge, area manager and five childcare staff. The registered provider does not work in the service.
Methodology	The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services)

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	<p>(Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under the following themes: Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to registering the change in circumstance. 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.</p>
Acknowledgements	<p>The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, person in charge deputy person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.</p>

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a) The registered provider has ensured that there is a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.

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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.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

- (1) The registered provider has an adequate number of adults available to work with the amended age profile of children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play

(1) *Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*

- (a) *having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (b) *there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

(2) *A registered provider—*

- (b) *of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that moves premises on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

With the addition of the new preschool room, the service will comprise of five care rooms. All of these rooms are bright and spacious and are suitably resourced and laid out to cater for the proposed number of children attending in each room.

(1)(b)

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There is a sleep area in the Hawthorn room (baby room). It was equipped with one standard cot and one cot bed. The service has three low lying beds which are available for children if they get tired. Suitable rest areas have been provided in each care room.

(2)(b)

The service has three outdoor areas off the care rooms. Two of these are partially enclosed. The outdoor areas are secured with a high wall and partially fenced. There were no ponds, pits or other hazards observed in the outdoor areas.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

All food and drinks are provided by the service. A chef is employed in the service and prepares and cooks food fresh for the children on a daily basis. Water and milk are provided with their meals. The service has a rolling four-week menu available. Infant formula will be stored in the fridge in the Hawthorn room and heated before feeding.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.

The outdoor area is suitably secured.

Emergency exits are clear.

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Protective radiator covers have been provided where required.

Cleaning agents were stored out of sight and reach of children.

There is provision for the appropriate disposal and storage of waste including the provision of foot pedal operated bins throughout the service.

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.

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) There was evidence that three members of staff were trained as First Aid Responders.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was provided. It was positioned in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the communal area in the preschool.

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 fire fighting 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.

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Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)(a) There was evidence that fire drills are practised monthly in the service.</p> <p>(1)(b) There was a record available relating to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment and for the smoke detection system for the premises.</p> <p>(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed. The fire assembly point was identified.</p>
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Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Requirement met:	<p>There was evidence of insurance cover for full day care for 65 children. This certificate is valid from 30/09/2024 – 29/09/2025.</p>
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Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are—

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Requirement met:	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(a) The service is located on the ground floor of a purposely adapted premises. There are 4 preschool rooms. With the addition of the Oak room (Toddler room), the service has 5 preschool rooms and 3 outdoor areas, two of which are partially covered for use in all weather conditions.</p> <p>(b) There is one point of entry to the childcare service. The doors are secured, and access is controlled by the person in charge and other staff members. The outdoor</p>
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	<p>areas are secured to prevent a child leaving the area unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the area.</p> <p>(c) The premises benefits from high levels of natural light via windows and doors in the pre-school rooms. Supplemental artificial lighting from covered fluorescent lighting is also available. Windows in the pre-school rooms can be opened. There is a gas heating system in each preschool room. There is a mechanical ventilation system in the sanitary areas. The Hawthorn room has air conditioning in place.</p> <p>(d) The service was clean and well maintained and cleaning schedules are in place.</p> <p>(e) Adequate and suitable sanitary facilities have been provided in the service. There are seven toilets, one nappy changing unit and eight wash hand basins designated for children’s use. There are three separate toilets and wash hand basins designated for use by staff.</p>
Requirement not met:	There was no hot water available on the day of inspection as the gas boiler was being serviced.
Response from Provider:	A letter was submitted by the contractor confirming the part has been sourced and boiler is to be fixed this Friday 19 th and 20 th of September 2025.
Summary Comment:	The requirement has been met.

Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*
- (4) *Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides—*

- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and
 (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1) Adequate clear floor space has been provided in the preschool rooms for the number and ages of children proposed to attend the service.

(2) There was adequate clear floor space for 65 children of whom 59 can attend on a full day care/ part-time basis; the remainder will be present for up to 3.5 hours / sessional hours.

Room Name	Space available m ²
Room 1 (Hawthorn)	25.54 m ²
Room 2 (Beech)	32.55 m ²
Room 3 (Sycamore)	28.6 m ²
Room 4 (Ash)	41.8 m ²
Room 5 (Oak)	30 m ²

(4)(a)(b)

There is approximately 155.2 m² of clear floor space available in the service. The provider has demonstrated an awareness of the clear space requirements for each child according to these regulations. They reported that this would be considered when allocating children to rooms to provide for the minimum space requirements to be met at all times.