

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY289
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Name of Service:	Little Treasures Playschool
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Address of Service:	Beechwood Parish Community Centre, Mountainview Rd, Ranelagh, Dublin 6, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D06 TD65
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Name of Registered Provider:	Veronica Daly
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	N/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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
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Description of service

Little Treasures Playschool is an early years service which was first established in 2002 by the current registered provider. Care and education are provided to children aged 2 to 6 years on a sessional basis following a school calendar, 38 weeks of the year. The service is located in a residential area of Ranelagh, Dublin 6, and opens from 8:45 to 12:15 each weekday. The premises consists of two adjoining purposely adapted classrooms, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, and a third room used for storage and gross motor play within the Beechwood Parish Community Centre.

Staffing

The service currently employs six staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service. All six staff members were present during the 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/ information and records/ 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 15 and regulation 16.

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

(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

No new adults had been employed to work in the service since the last date of inspection on the 6th December 2021. The requirements for Regulation 9(2)(4) were met during the last inspection of the service in respect of the registered provider and the other five adults currently employed in the service. Therefore, the inspection of Regulation 9 was limited to the requirements detailed in 9(2)(c), the findings were as follows:

Garda vetting disclosures from The National Vetting Bureau were available for the six adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(3)
The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were twenty-two children present in the service attending on a sessional basis being supervised by six adults during the inspection.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)
A sample of twelve records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspector to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the twelve records detailed the required information under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i).

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Documentation reviewed evidenced that children’s attendance was being accurately recorded in each care room.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service and was reflective of the staff members present throughout the inspection.
 - (j) Staff members stated that medication is not routinely administered to children in the service. However, the procedures in place should the requirement arise for medication to be administered were detailed to the inspector, and appropriate documentation was available to record this if required.
 - (k) Records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained the necessary details.

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

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

Kindness and warmth were observed by the inspector during interactions between staff and the children, and adults availed of opportunities to engage in personal one on one conversations with the children throughout the inspection. Comfort was provided promptly to a child if they became upset and staff remained engaged with the children throughout the inspection, sitting with them partaking in play, stories, and snack time. The routine and play experiences in the service was observed to be play based and child-led, and children were visibly content and engaged in their play-based activities throughout the session. Play materials were made accessible to the children at a low level facilitating their choice in play. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the needs of the children during conversations with the inspector.

Staff encouraged the children to be independent in their environment by allocating tasks including cleaning up following meals and play, and alerted children in advance of transitions using a sand timer. Drinks were accessible to the children throughout the inspection and rest areas were in place to enable the children to take time out from the group if desired.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the children's environments were safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

Pedal-operated, lidded bins were in place throughout the service to appropriately manage waste. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Liquid soap, warm water, and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing and both staff and children washed hands at regular intervals.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidence that the service was adequately ensured for the number of children enrolled to attend the service and the type of service provided.