

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY307
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Oakview Oireachtas
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Kildare House, Kildare St, Dublin 2
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D02 V968
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Timothy Crean
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	23	PM	21
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Jameson
<b>Title:</b>	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).

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

Oakview Oireachtas is located on the southside of Dublin city centre. The service provides full day care to a maximum of 29 children, aged 0 – 6 years, Monday to Friday from 08:15am – 06:15pm. There are three care rooms, namely the Baby room, catering for children aged 1 – 1.5 years, the Wobbler / Toddler room, catering for children aged 1.5 – 2 years and the Montessori room, catering for children aged 2 – 5 years. The service offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme through a morning session from 9am – 12pm. There are also nappy changing facilities, sanitary accommodation, a cot room, a kitchen and a staff room / office. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the building.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs eleven staff members to work in the service, including the director of operations, two persons in charge, seven early years educators and a cook. On the day of inspection, one of the persons in charge, seven early years educators and the cook were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. The director of operations arrived in the service in the afternoon to support 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, safety and premises and facilities. 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 Pre-School Service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included all three care rooms, the Baby room, the Wobbler / Toddler room and the Montessori room.

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 director of operations, the 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.

(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 as needed.
  - (b) The person in charge and deputy person in charge were rostered to be present at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
  - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

- (2) A review of the roster and conversation with management showed that the registered provider currently employs eleven adults. The full staff record of three adults who had been employed since the last inspection held on 17 October 2025 were reviewed.
- (a) Three written and verified references were available from past employers.
  - (b) Three written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the three adults employed in the service. 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 two adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to three adults who had access to the children
- (4) Evidence was available to show that one adult 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (4) Documentation was not available to demonstrate that two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It is acknowledged that a qualification certificate was available for one adult, however it could not be established that this was an approved qualification.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (4) Qualification recognition has been obtained for both staff members. Management will ensure all new employees have recognised qualifications prior to commencing employment. A staff file checklist is now in operation to ensure all documentation required by staff are present when they commence employment.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

- (4) Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

## 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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. In the morning, there were seven adults caring for twenty-three children and during the afternoon, there were six adults caring for twenty-one children. In addition, the person in charge was available to provide support in a supernumerary capacity and to cover breaks where required.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff members were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children in the rooms.

## 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.*

*(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 there was a record kept in writing of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) Documentary evidence of the children’s arrival and departure times was available in the care rooms.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) The registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for a sample of ten medicine administration records that were reviewed on the day of inspection.
- (k) The registered provider ensured a full record in writing was maintained for a sample of ten accident and incident records that were reviewed 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-

(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 on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- Staff members engaged in positive interactions with each other and the children on the day of the inspection. For example, a staff member in the Montessori room was observed to interact warmly and kindly with a child who was upset at drop off, using gentle touch and tone of voice to support the child during this transition.
- The children appeared to be happy and confident in their environment and staff members discussed the needs, likes and dislikes of the children in their care. This evidenced a sense of familiarity and strong relationships between staff members and the children attending the service. On the day of inspection, a child was celebrating their birthday. Children from different care rooms gathered in the outdoor play area to sing happy birthday together, further supporting friendships and connection within the service.
- The staff members were observed to positively reinforce the children's achievements with recognition, praise and encouragement. Any minor disagreements that occurred between the children were dealt with in a positive and calm manner and the children were supported to resolve any conflict that arose.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, assisting with hand washing and blowing noses.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a sociable and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children. Water stations were set up in the care rooms, allowing the children to access a drink when they wanted.
- Appropriate and respectful nappy changing procedures were observed on the day of inspection. The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently with discreet supervision provided by staff members. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently when required. Staff members wore clean aprons and gloves for each nappy change, while engaging in meaningful interactions with the children.

## 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 registered provider ensured that an adequate supply of suitable materials and equipment were available to the children in the service. The following was observed;

- Child sized tables, chairs and highchairs were available for use by the children which allowed them to engage in tabletop activities and meals comfortably.
- The care rooms were designed to support the age and developmental stages of the children attending the service, equipment and materials were stored at a low level to encourage the children’s independence and decision-making skills.
- Equipment and materials in the care rooms were in good working order. Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, construction toys, cars, animals, art and craft materials, home corners with supporting equipment and dress up, soft plush toys and a selection of books were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play.
- Cosy areas were available in the care rooms to provide children a comfortable place to rest or engage in quiet activities.
- Children’s artwork, photographs, birthday charts and family walls were displayed throughout the care rooms and service, supporting the children’s sense of identity and links between home and the service.
- The outdoor area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor, sensory activities and imaginative play. Children were observed to play with sand and water in the garden on the day of inspection.

## 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 door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. A buzzer system was in place which was managed and monitored by staff members.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed, preventing the children leaving the area unsupervised.
- Flexes and cords were secured safely out of reach of the children.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

##### Infection Control:

- The care rooms and sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, before eating and after activities and toileting.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the care rooms and sanitary areas to ensure the hygienic disposal of contaminated materials.
- Lunches brought from home were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Anti febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff members were observed to physically check and record the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children every 10 minutes.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children over one years old in the cot room and care rooms.
- Cellular blankets were used.

- The blinds were closed and soft played in the background, creating a relaxing environment for sleeping children.
- Prompts detailing the children’s individual sleep routines were displayed in the cot room, supporting staff members and children during the transition to sleep time.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection. The evacuation route was displayed in the care rooms and staff members were aware of the procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

The following was observed on the day of inspection which reduced effective cleaning and increased the risk of cross contamination:

- Soft foam blocks in the Toddler room and the couch in the Montessori room were torn and frayed, leaving the internal foam exposed.
- Two waterproof mattress covers were torn and damaged.
- The covering on two shelving units in the Toddler room was worn down and chipped, leaving internal wood exposed.
- The radiator cover in the Montessori sanitary accommodation was worn and the wood was observed to have expanded in places due to the porosity of the wood.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

- The soft foam blocks in the Toddler room have been removed and a new part of the couch has been purchased. The couch in the Montessori room has been removed.
- The two waterproof mattress covers have been removed and replaced with new mattress covers.
- A white vinyl was added to the shelving units in the Toddler room to cover exposed wood and ensure adequate cleaning can be done.
- Management has contacted the building manager to highlight the issue with the radiator cover in the Montessori bathroom and are awaiting an update regarding repairs.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

- Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.
- Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.
- Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
- Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

## 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) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for four staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster.

- (2)
- (a) The first aid boxes available in the service were suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous location on the premises.
  - (b) First aid boxes were available for the children in attendance in the event of an emergency.