

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY327
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Name of Service:	Inchicore CDT Children's Project
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Address of Service:	135 Emmet Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D08 FP44
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Name of Registered Provider:	Stuart Fraser
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Service type:	Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	7
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
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

Inchicore CDT Children's Project is a community based children's project for children whose parents and family members live with the impact of drug or alcohol misuse. The early years service facilitates parents to attend the services of the addiction team. The service is registered to provide part-time and sessional care for children aged 1 to 6 years and operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Staffing

In total seven adults are employed in the service including the person in charge. On the day of inspection three staff members and two students were present. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment,
11(1), (2) and (8)(a) Staffing Levels,
15(1)(a)-(i) Record of a Pre-School Child
19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

25 (1), (2)(a), (b) First aid

26 (1)(a), (b) and (4) Fire Safety

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 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*

(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.*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Three new adults were employed since the last inspection on the 20 September 2023. In total six full files were reviewed including files for three students who were present on work placement. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all adults employed and working in the service.

(a) Three written validated references were provided from a past employer.

(b) Three written validated references were provided from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting had been sourced as required for one adult who had lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing the adults who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a), (b) One reference on file for one adult from a past employer was not validated. Five adults did not have a second written validated references on file.

(3) The procedures as detailed under (2) (a),(b) were not carried out as required prior to the adults being appointed to work with the pre-school children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All outstanding references identified during the inspection have now been validated. This includes the verification of the reference from the past employer for one adult and the sourcing and validation of a second written reference for the five adults who did not have them on file.

A full audit of all staff files has been completed to ensure that each file now contains two written, validated references in line with Tusla requirements. Any missing or unclear information has been followed up and recorded. The manager has been assigned responsibility for ensuring all references are secured, validated, and logged before staff files are approved.

The induction policy has been updated to clearly require two validated written references for all adults before they are permitted to engage in work in The Children's Project.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions stated meeting the Regulatory requirement.

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

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for part-time day-care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were seven children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured at least two adults are on the premises at all times as evidenced by the staff roster.

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 nine records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.

(i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

(3) The records were opened for inspection by an authorised person.

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)

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the pre-school. The service had a healthy eating policy and the menu was displayed in the care room. Children were offered breakfast on arrival, and fresh fruit. A hot meal of mashed potatoes, gravy and sausages was served at lunch time. An external catering company is used to supply the main meal and re-constituted on site. The atmosphere at mealtime was calm and relaxed children engaged in conversation with each other and staff. Plenty of time was given to allow children to enjoy their food. Additional portions were offered and provided as requested. Children were offered water to drink. Younger children were provided with bibs to protect their clothing and staff provided them with some assistance as required.

Older children accessed the toilet independently during the inspection while being closely supervised by staff. Children requiring nappy changes were changed when required. Staff demonstrated warmth and kindness during interactions observed by the inspector. This included supporting children, offering reassurance, and praise during play. Children were offered choice and play was child led; staff used a planner and asked children which activity they would like to engage with during the morning. In a relaxed way each child responded by telling staff what they wished to do some chose to go to home corner, others to the construction area others choose tabletop activities including painting and using play dough. Children appeared happy and content at their play they moved freely between the different areas of interest. Open low-level shelving allowed the children to access the play

materials easily. Each area was well resourced with a suitable age-appropriate toys. A designated rest area was available to allow children take a break from activities. Younger children were provided with an opportunity to sleep. Standard cots were provided and during this time the blinds were closed and the room was made conducive for sleeping. Staff remained with the children providing reassurance and comforting them as they settled to sleep. Staff reported low level beds are available if any of the older children require to sleep.

All children had regular access to outdoor play. The outdoor area was safely secure, it was partially roofed and the surface provided was artificial grass. A selection of equipment was available for the children including bikes, balls, push along toys and a sand pit.

The service fostered good relationships with parents. Parents came into the service to bring and collect their children staff were observed to use this time to talk with parent's and update them on any developments about their child's day.

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:

Access to the service was secure to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. An intercom system was in place to monitor visitors before granting access. The outdoor area to the rear of the premises was secured by a high wall and gate. Cleaning agents and medications were stored safely out of reach of children. All low-level cupboards were securely locked and not accessible to children.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean and staff were observed cleaning tables after meals. Staff supervised children washing their hands after outdoor play, using the toilet and prior to eating. Sanitary areas were suitably equipped for hand washing with thermostically controlled warm water, liquid soap and paper towel. Pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary area and care room. Children's soothers were stored in individual containers after use. Linen for children's cots and low-level beds were stored in individual containers.

Administration of Medication:

Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedures to administer medication safely if needed. Medication records forms that had been completed by staff were reviewed and completed correctly signed by two staff and the child's guardian.

Safe Sleep:

Cots were provided for children under two to sleep. The room temperatures was maintained between 16 and 20°C. Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Nappy changing practice was observed used gloves were not removed after changing children's nappies posing a potential infection control risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. All staff present were immediately reminded of correct nappy-changing procedures, specifically the requirement to remove soiled gloves before redressing a child to prevent cross-contamination. All staff have re-read and signed off on the policy on nappy changing and the correct sequence of nappy-changing steps, including glove removal, hand hygiene, and surface cleaning. The nappy changing policy has been reviewed and updated to clearly outline each step required for safe and hygienic practice, including when gloves must be removed and when hand hygiene must take place.

A new step-by-step infection-control poster/infographic has been placed at the nappy changing station to remind staff of correct procedures during practice. This clearly outlines each step of the nappy changing process.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

Corrective and Preventive Actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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) Staff trained in first aid for children were at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. The person in charge and another staff member caring for the children had First Aid Responder certificates that were valid until the 28 October 2026 and the 31 July 2027.

(2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored and easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 10 October 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm was available. The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment were dated and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated the 30 September 2025.

(4) The procedure to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations in the pre-school room.