

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY332
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	YMCA Childcare
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	YMCA Childcare, 53 Aungier Street, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D02 CH96
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Stuart Buchanan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	90	PM	77
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Á Dunne, E Hosford
<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

YMCA Childcare established in 1991 is operated as a social enterprise by YMCA to support services for young people in Dublin 2. The YMCA is a registered charity. This service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 0-6 years. The service is registered to operate from 7.45 am to 6.15pm but currently is operating from 8.00 am to 5.30pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service has 6 care rooms: Room 1 - Part time ECCE room (3 years to 5 years), Room 2 - Preschool room (3 years to 5 years), Room 3 - the Toddler room (2 to 3 years), Room 4 - the Baby room (11 months to 18 months), Room 5 - the Tiny Tot room (1 years to 2 years) and Room 7 - Preschool room (3 to 5 years). The service has one sleep room with eight cots. There is one enclosed outdoor area, a studio and a large sports hall enabling daily access to open space. A school age service is also provided in Room 1 and Room 6 from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Room 6 was closed on the day of inspection.

### Staffing

The service employs 38 adults. On the day of inspection the registered provider, the person in charge, assistant manager, 23 childcare staff, 3 kitchen staff along with 1 part-time staff employed under the Community Employment Scheme were present. Three students attending the service were not present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service but was present in the building on the day of 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, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11,16, 19, 23, 25,26 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Records in Relation to Preschool Service and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included Room 1, Room 2, Room 3 and Room 4. It did not include Room 5, Room 6, or Room 7.

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels were assessed across all rooms of the service during the inspection.

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 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

(2) The files of four staff members, two students and one staff member employed under the Community Employment scheme who were new to the service since the last inspection held on the 25 November 2024 were reviewed along with Garda Vetting disclosure for five staff members whose files were reviewed on the last inspection. The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a) Two validated written references were available for three adults and one validated written reference were available for two adults from a past employer

(b) Two validated written references were available for two adults and one validated written reference was available for two adults from a source other than a past employer

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 12 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 the seven adults who had lived outside the State for longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the four 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, Disability and Equality.

### 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 inspection, there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service, for example:

There were 22 adults available to 90 children in attendance when the inspectors arrived unannounced in the morning and in the afternoon 18 adults were available to 76 children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection, as follows:

- In Room 1, there were 13 children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults in the morning.
- In Room 2, there were 17 children aged 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults in the morning and by 4 adults in the afternoon.
- In Room 3, there were 15 children aged 2 years to 3 years being cared for by 3 adults in the morning and in the afternoon.
- In Room 4, there were 7 children aged 11 months to 18 months being cared for by 3 adults in the morning and 8 children aged 11 months to 18 months being cared for by 3 adults in the afternoon.

- In Room 5, there were 16 children aged 1 years to 2 years being cared for by 5 adults in the morning and by 4 adults in the afternoon.
- In Room 7, there were 22 children aged 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 4 adults in the morning and 21 children aged 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults in the afternoon.

The person in charge and deputy person in charge were available in a supernumerary capacity to support breaks.

## 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) The registered provider ensured the following:

- (h) Attendance records detailing the arrival and departure of the children on a daily basis were maintained on an electronic application.
- (i) A record was maintained of the staff roster which was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) On review of two medicine administration records with three administrations, the required information was present, and the records were complete.
- (k) On review of 29 accident and incident records available, the required information was present, and the records were completed.

### 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

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

##### Basic Needs:

- The service provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children with a rotating 3-week menu. On the day of the Inspection the inspector observed dinner at 11.30am of pesto pasta, snack was between 1.30pm and 2.00pm on waking from sleep and tea was observed at 2.38 pm as meatballs in tomato sauce with toast, made in the service kitchen. Additional servings were available for the children, and staff confirmed that alternative food was provided for children with special dietary requirements.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- Mealtimes were held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere in each care room. Staff were observed to support the children during mealtimes.
- Children were provided with appropriate cutlery to support their independence during mealtimes.
- Nappy changing and toileting were respectful and positive experiences for the children, and staff were observed to encourage the children to be independent in managing their personal care such as handwashing.
- The transitions between activities such as nappy changes, sleep time, mealtimes, free play and outdoor play were observed to be calm and relaxed with staff available to care for the individual needs of the children.
- All children in each room were observed to enjoy outdoor play, play in the sports hall or in the studio during the inspection.
- Children's need for sleep and rest were met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available. Cots, soft floor mats and low stackable beds with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep. At sleep time, the rooms were darkened and soft music played to provide for a restful environment.

### Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed to be engaged with and sit with the children during play time and had positive interactions during play activities.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.
- The service communicated with parents through the use of an electronic application, emails and phone calls and verbal updates their child's day at pick up time.

### Physical Environment and Materials:

- Low level accessible shelving and child sized furniture supported children's independence.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Cosy areas were present in all rooms offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The sports hall, the studio and the outdoor play area were available for the children, with equipment and materials present providing a variety of opportunities to develop their fine and gross motor skills, which provided learning opportunities for the children.

## 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 building was via the front door which monitored by reception staff in the main centre. On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the service within the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the day of inspection.

#### Infection Control:

- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits, after outdoor play and before and after mealtimes.

- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in accordance with the service policy.
- During sleep time, cots, low floor mats and low stackable beds were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child

### Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low floor mats.
- Shoes and clothing were removed from children while they slept.
- Staff maintained 10-minute sleep checks to include their colour, breathing and position while children slept, using the electronic application.

### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

## 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

- (2) (a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions throughout the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) While it is acknowledged that two staff were trained in first aid response for children in the service, no staff member was immediately available to the children in attendance from 8.00 am to 8.30am. Sufficient number of adults must be trained in first aid response to cover the roster, staff leave and breaks, a staff

member qualified in first aid response for children must be available to the children at all times. It is also acknowledged that 29 staff have in dated paediatric first aid, completed on the 6 May 2025.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) Since the inspection, one childcare staff member has completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training on 27 June 2025. One further member of childcare staff has signed up for FAR training and will undertake online training in advance of one day of face-to-face tuition on 14 August 2025. The above means four childcare staff will be trained in FAR by the end of August 2025, with a further 2 staff to undertake the training by the end of the year. Quarterly review of staff training dates will be carried out by a member of the management team, commencing 15th September 2025

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) FAR training certificate for one staff member, evidence of booking of FAR training for second staff member, evidence of recurring calendar appointment for quarterly training checks.

### Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 25 has been adequately 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 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 record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 25 April 2025.

(b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, demonstrating they were last serviced on the 13 December 2024.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (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.*

#### Compliance Information

(b)

- No trailing flexes were accessible to the children.

(c)

- The service was adequately lit and ventilated with working mechanical ventilation or windows present or available in the nappy changing areas, sanitary facilities and in the care rooms.

(e)

- The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities with handwashing facilities for hand hygiene including thermostatically controlled water, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.

#### Non -Compliance Information

(e) The artificial surface of the outdoor area was uneven and in poor condition.

#### Corrective and Preventative Actions

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

(e) YMCA maintenance teams have engaged with contractors to repair the surfaces. It is anticipated that it can be facilitated by mid-September 2025. This will likely be out of hours work, given location and access required by contractors.

When the repairs are affected with will document same by photographs and return same

- Dimensions of ladder area to be repaired - 6.4m x 1m

- Cover square (dimensions of the surrounding) - 705mm x 755mm
- Cover square (dimensions of the surrounding) - 730mm x 680mm

Service / repair of worn areas will ensure the playground surface is a safe and accessible play surface going forward. Close monitoring of same if future repairs are required by YMCA Maintenance team

**Supporting documentation submitted**

(e) Picture in attachments shows the areas listed below to be repaired/ replaced.

**Summary Comment**

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 29 has been adequately addressed and will be reviewed on the next inspection.