

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY341
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Name of Service:	Pearse College Nursery
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Address of Service:	Pearse College, Clogher Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 Y580
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Tuite
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	17/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	45	PM	32
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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, Rachel Duff, Helen Sutherland
Title:	Early Years Inspector(s)

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

Pearse College Nursery is a community based, not-for-profit early years service located in an urban, residential area of Crumlin, South County Dublin. Full day, part-time and sessional care and education are provided to children aged between 6 months and six years. The service is currently open from Monday to Friday between 08:30 and 16:30 hours. The premises is a purpose built, single storey building and is comprised of six care rooms and two dedicated sleep rooms. There were five care rooms open during the inspection. The sixth care room is currently being used as a sleep room for children attending the Toddler room. The children have access to a large outdoor play area to the rear of the premises with a shock absorbent and concrete surfacing.

Staffing

There are twenty-four staff members currently employed to work in the service, including the registered provider. Twenty-two staff members, including the registered provider and two adults on a work placement programme, were present 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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, 23 and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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) Following a discussion with the appointed person in charge it was confirmed that two adults on a work placement programme had commenced working in the service since regulation 9 was last inspected on the 6th March 2023. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these two adults. Regulation 9(2)(c) was reviewed for all twenty-four adults working in the service. This documentation met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) (b) There were two references each available for the two adults which had been appropriately verified.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for each of the twenty-four adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed to work in the service.

(d) One of the adults required International Police vetting, the required documentation was available for the adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the two adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) Not applicable, the adults did not require a qualification.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were forty-five children present in the service being supervised by seventeen 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 children's records were reviewed by the inspectors in respect of 12 children currently enrolled to attend the service. The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of the details relating to points (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (h) and (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

- (b) Four of the records reviewed did not contain details of the date on which the child first attended the service.
- (g) Three of the records did not detail the name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Records were checked to find the start date of each child and all registration forms have been updated fully. Many of the registration forms are filled out before the children are born and the parents may not always have all of the information. Management will ensure that registration forms are fully filled out before new children start.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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) Records of medication which had been administered to children in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained all of the necessary details.
 - (k) Records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained all of 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 inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. They spent time outdoors and were dressed appropriate to the weather. Older children used the toilet independently and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm one to one interactions with the children.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff provided the children with comfort when they became upset, holding them and talking to them in soft tones. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care.

The children brought snacks from home and the service provided a hot meal at lunch time. Staff sat with the children when eating and provided them with help when needed. Younger children were supported to eat independently, and bibs were worn during meals to protect the children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Drinks were always available within the care rooms. Staff reported some infants brought bottles of milk from home and were given these according to their individual routines. Children were assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times.

Children in the Baby and Wobbler rooms were placed to sleep according to their individual routines and when they showed signs of tiredness. The sleep rooms were calm and conducive to sleep. Children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided the children with comfort and reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. The children attending the Toddler room were provided with an opportunity to sleep and rest in an adjacent room before dinner. Areas were provided within the rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities.

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

General Safety:

Steps were implemented to ensure the safety of the children. The entry and exit points were secured to prevent children from leaving the service unattended or unauthorised individuals from gaining access.

Infection Control:

Measures were taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading. Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination. Appropriate infection control measures were taken during nappy changing including the use of gloves, aprons, and thorough handwashing after changes. Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins. Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which was laundered weekly and stored individually between uses. Staff were aware of guidelines on exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses. Warm water, soap and paper towels were available for handwashing and both staff and children washed their hands at regular intervals and as required. Plates were provided to children for all meals and snacks.

Administration of Medication:

Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting written consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection. Care plans were available for children who required regular or emergency medication.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance and placed babies on their backs to sleep. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep rooms and the younger care rooms, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges.

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 which was in line with records available in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A metal nail was protruding from a plastic door/finger protector in the Preschool 1 room posing a risk of injury to a child.
2. Three plastic baskets in use for toy storage in the Toddler room were broken in parts creating a potential pinch hazard to a child. Play equipment available to the children in the toddler room was observed to be broken in parts, sharp edges were exposed as result of this posing a risk of injury to the child.
3. A metal grate which was secured to a drain on the surface of the outdoor play area was lifting at the edges posing a trip hazard.
4. A door leading to a storage room in the hallway of the Toddler bathroom was unlocked and accessible to the children during the inspection, posing a risk of the child accessing the area unsupervised. Children were observed in this hallway alone at times after toileting/nappy changes whilst waiting to return to their care room.
5. The fridge and press under the sink in baby room were unlocked during the inspection. Antifebrile medication was stored in fridge and a cleaning agent in the press. It is acknowledged that the press could not be accessed by the children in attendance on the day of inspection but could be if an older children were present in the room posing a risk of harm.

Infection Control:

6. Toilet rolls were not appropriately stored in a dispenser in the Toddler and Preschool 1 bathrooms posing a potential risk of cross contamination.
7. A waterproof/wipeable cover was not available to allow for effective disinfecting of the surface for one of the mattress in the sleep room. This poses a risk of infection to the child.

Outings:

8. Staff confirmed during discussions with the inspectors that outings are regularly completed with the children to an allotment area on the grounds of Pearse College. A completed risk assessment, permission from parents, or an outings checklist was not available for any outing undertaken in the service to ensure the safe conduct of outings with the children. This was at variance with the outings policy and procedure in place in the service which outlined the requirement for pre-consent, a risk assessment, and an outings checklist to be completed prior to the outing commencing and retained on file for inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The nails on the door protector have been replaced with screws. These will be checked and tightened as necessary as part of a risk assessment.
2. Plastic boxes were discarded. All broken toys were also discarded. The shelving units are now left open plan. Any toys that are spotted to be broken and cannot be fixed will also be scrapped.
3. The metal grate has been secured with heavy duty cable ties. Staff will check the metal grate as part of their outdoor risk assessment.
4. A sliding lock has been put on this door. Following a meeting with staff, this door is to be locked at all times with the lock and key.
5. The fridge and press were locked. Following a conversation with the staff member in the room, she is now extra vigilant regarding the locking of the fridge and press. It should be noted that this is a designated baby room and older children are never in this room so would never be able to access the fridge or press.

Infection Control:

6. The toilet rolls were restocked on the day of inspection. The toilet tissue dispensers will be monitored by staff and re-stocked as necessary.
7. A new waterproof mattress protector was purchased. All mattresses will be checked each time the sheets are changed.

Outings:

8. All pre-school parents were asked to sign a permission slip to allow their child to attend trips to the allotments. These permission slips will be added to the welcome pack of permissions for parents to sign when their child starts nursery.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The actions outlined by the registered provider will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation reviewed evidenced that the service was appropriately insured for the type of service provided and the number of children currently enrolled to attend the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. The laminated surfacing on some shelving units and children's tables in the Toddler and Preschool 1 rooms were heavily worn and coming away in parts, exposing an unfinished wooden surface which could not be effectively cleaned.
 2. The children's coat hook in the hallway of the Toddler bathroom was coming off the wall.
 3. The door of a press under the sink in the Toddler room and a storage press in the Preschool 1 room were broken and coming away from the hinges.
 4. One of the radiators in the Preschool 1 room was coming off the wall and needed to be secured.
 5. The linoleum flooring was coming away from the wall in the hallway of the Preschool 1 bathroom.
 6. There was a sticky residue on the surface of some shelves, radiators, and presses in the Toddler and Preschool 1 rooms which was accumulating dirt and debris.
 7. Two rugs in the Toddler and Preschool 1 room were lifting and unravelling in parts and needed to be replaced.
 8. Large areas of paint on the walls in the Toddler and Preschool 1 rooms were heavily chipped in parts exposing the plastered wall beneath.
 9. Three wooden structures in the outdoor play area with fabric cushioned tops were heavily stained and soiled. The fabric coverings were worn and frayed and there was evidence of damp and mildew on the cushioned surface.
 10. Although cleaning schedules were documented as being completed in the service, some of the care rooms, children's bathrooms, and nappy changing areas were observed to be heavily soiled and required a deep clean as follows;

- Areas of the flooring, skirting boards, nappy units, ledges, and shelving had heavy accumulations of dust, dirt, and debris in crevices and on surfaces.
- There were heavy accumulations of cobwebs in areas of some ceilings and corners of the care rooms.
- Two fabric cushions on the couch in the Toddler room were stained and required cleaning.
- Fabric baskets used to store toys in the Toddler room were heavily stained and soiled.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Two new shelving units have been purchased and the worn ones replaced. These will be added to the weekly risk assessments in the rooms.
2. This coat hook was tightened. These will be added to the weekly risk assessments in the rooms.
3. The hinges on the press were tightened. The hinges on all of the presses in the building were tightened.
4. The radiator cover was tightly secured to the wall. The radiator covers will be checked as part of the weekly risk assessments.
5. The lino has now been re-secured to the wall. The lino will be checked as part of the weekly risk assessments.
6. The sticky residue from adhesive tape has been thoroughly cleaned. Adhesive tape will no longer be used to stick artwork.
7. The rugs have now been replaced. The rugs will be checked as part of the weekly risk assessments.
8. The walls have now been painted.
9. The wooden structures have been removed from the playground. A pressure washer has been bought to ensure cleanliness in the garden.
10. All rooms have been deep cleaned. Management will ensure that all rooms continue to keep a high standard of cleanliness.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School