

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY344
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	St. Andrew's Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	114/116 Pearse St, Dublin 2
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D02 PR44
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Martina McKenna
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	14/08/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	15	PM	15
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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

St Andrew's Childcare Centre is situated in Dublin city, on the site of a large community resource centre. The service provides full day care to a maximum of 46 children aged 2 – 6 years, Monday to Friday, from 08:30am to 3:30pm. There are five care rooms – Room 1, Room 2, Room 3, Room 4 and Room 5. There is also a reception area, an office, a kitchen, sanitary accommodation, a recreational hall and a fully enclosed outdoor area which is located to the rear of the service. An additional, covered in outdoor play area is also available to the children with direct access from Room 4. The service also offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme 38 weeks of the year. On the day of inspection, Rooms 1 and 5 were not in operation.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service in a supernumerary capacity. There are fourteen adults employed in the service, including the registered provider, the deputy person in charge, nine early years practitioners who work directly with the children, a cook, a receptionist and one adult employed through the community employment scheme who works in a supernumerary capacity.

On the day of inspection, the registered provider, the deputy person in charge, five early years practitioners and the cook were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. Two early years practitioners arrived in the service at approximately 11:30am to provide support in the care rooms during lunch breaks and afternoon cover.

### 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(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) Record in Relation to Pre-School Service. As a result, the scope of the inspection included Room 2, Room 3 and Room 4.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy 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-

- (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

(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 designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge were present all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on and was present 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) Through conversation with the registered provider, it was confirmed that no new staff members had been employed to work in the service since the last inspection, dated 11 July 2024. Garda vetting for one adult which was expired on the last inspection and qualifications for two adults were reviewed by the inspector.
- (c) An in-date Garda vetting disclosure was available for one adult who works in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.

### Non-Compliance Information

(4) Evidence 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 documentation was available for review, however it could not be established that this was an approved qualification. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection, dated 11 July 2024.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Qualification recognition for two adults is currently being sought.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Component certificates for two adults have been submitted to the inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance under Regulation 9(4) remains outstanding as qualification recognition for two adults is ongoing and has not yet been submitted to the inspectorate for review. The registered provider is required to submit the recognition if and when it is received.

## 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. There were five adults caring for fifteen children throughout the day of the inspection. In addition, the registered provider and the deputy person in charge were available to provide support in a supernumerary capacity where required. At approximately 11:30am, two early years practitioners arrived in the service to provide support during lunch breaks and to work in the care rooms in the afternoon due to shift rotation.

- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspectors 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.

#### 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) Details of attendance by each pre-school child were stored in the children attendance record in the care rooms.
  - (k) Ten accident and incident records were reviewed, and all information was completed in full.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) The registered provider did not ensure that there was an accurate record of the staff roster containing the details of the staff scheduled to be in the service on the day of inspection. A staff roster was not available for review by the inspector for the week of 11 – 15 August 2025.  
A staff roster is required to effectively plan for the staffing requirements for the service to meet the needs of the children. It is acknowledged that a staff sign in record was available and detailed each staff member's sign in and out times for the day of the inspection.
  - (j) The registered provider did not ensure the following information was included to ensure a full record in writing could be maintained for medicine administration records:
    - A space to record the dosage of the medication being administered.
    - A space to record the signature of the person witnessing the medication being administered.

A full record in writing is required in order to prevent any miscommunication around the administration of medication to children which can increase the potential risk of overdose.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)
- (i) Management will ensure that weekly staff rosters are displayed in the reception area and care rooms and will be available for review if required.
  - (j) Updated medication administration record books which include all required information have been ordered and will be used going forward.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)
- (i) Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.
  - (j) No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 16.

### 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. The children appeared to be happy and confident in their environment, evidenced by a sense of familiarity with their care givers, the service and the daily routine.
  - Staff members were observed to join the children in play, offering support and encouragement. Children were involved in activity preparation and decision making was promoted. On the day of inspection, the children in Room 2 took turns to make a modelling dough mix, encouraging independence as well as fine motor skills and cognition.

- The children had freedom of movement in their environment. On the day of inspection, the children in Room 4 moved freely between the care room to the adjoining outdoor play area, offering alternative play options and extending play.
- The children sat together during mealtimes, with staff members seated alongside them engaging in meaningful conversation and singing songs. Additional portions of food were available to the children.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children’s individual personal needs promptly, offering discreet supervision for toileting and assisting with hand washing.

### 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;

- Low level tables and chairs 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, a selection of books and opportunities for sensory play were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences.
- Well-equipped and defined areas of interest were available to the children in the care rooms. Home corners included a variety of supporting props such as dolls with buggies and cots, tea sets, dress up and real-life objects such as telephones. Cosy corners included couches, cushions and pillows, soft plush toys and a selection of books, offering children a place to rest and take part in quiet activities.
- The outdoor play area was divided into three separate spaces, each with a large hut which provided shelter during colder months. The outdoor play area provided opportunities for a variety of play experiences including gross motor, sensory and imaginative play. On the day of inspection, children in Room 3 were observed to play with water and sand.

### 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 visitor book was available at the front desk. The inspector was asked to sign in and sign out at their arrival to and departure from the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were stored safely out of 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.
- The windows were observed to be open to allow for circulation of fresh air in the care rooms.
- Snacks brought from home were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Antifebrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach.

##### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.
- The emergency evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was not maintained in care rooms where children were playing, which posed a potential risk to the children's safety. The following was observed:
  - Room 2 was 24.3°C at 12:11pm.
  - Room 3 was 24.1°C at 12:30pm.

- Room 4 was 23.6°C at 12pm.

**Infection Control:**

2. Bins with swinging lids were observed to be in use in the service. These require repeated touch to dispose of waste and increase the risk of cross contamination.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

1. Management will supply fans for the care rooms to help reduce the temperature during warm weather.

**Infection Control:**

2. New foot operated pedal bins have been bought for use in the service and will be replaced as required if broken.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

1. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

**Infection Control:**

2. Photographic evidence 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 3 staff members and their attendance in the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid box available in the service was 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.