

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY351
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Name of Service:	Inchicore Community Crèche and Afterschool
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Address of Service:	The Oblate House, Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore Dublin 8.
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Eircode:	D08 R8NY
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Name of Registered Provider:	Cinthia Conboy
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	33	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill, Linda Magee
Title:	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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Inchicore Community Crèche and Afterschool is a community based service registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care catering for children ranging in age from 2-6 years. The service operates Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm and provides a school age service in the afternoon. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme is offered daily from 9am to 12 midday. The early years service is based on the grounds of the Church of Mary Immaculate Inchicore. The service operates within the Oblate Father's Community Centre. Care of the children is provided across five care rooms. Four care rooms are located on the ground floor and the fifth care room is on the first floor. The pre-school room on the first floor was closed for Easter on the day of inspection for children availing of the ECCE scheme. Two designated outdoor play areas are provided for the children on the premises and the service have also use of the indoor hall.

Staffing

There are currently 15 adults employed to work in the service including the registered provider and a cook. On the day of inspection there were 15 adults present including, 8 childcare staff, 3 students, the deputy person in charge, the cook and the registered provider.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations under the following regulations:

Regulation 9(1)(a), (b), (2)(a) -(d), (3) and (4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1) (2), (8) (a) Staffing levels

Regulation 19 (1)(a)(b) Health welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under Regulation 9(7)(a). These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0101	08/04/2026	Translated police vetting was not available for three adults who were working in the service.
Status	The registered provider took immediate corrective actions which were accepted and addressed the Statutory notice. Preventative actions were submitted by the registered provider which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	
Improvement Notice IN0103	08/04/2026	One child was prescribed emergency medication for a medical condition. Staff caring for the child were unaware treatment was needed in the event of an emergency posing a safety risk.
Status	The registered provider took immediate corrective action which were accepted and addressed the Statutory notice. Preventative actions were submitted by the registered provider which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider was the person in charge and there was a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The person in charge was always on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or the named deputy to be present at all times of opening.
 - (c) The management structure was clearly documented. Staff demonstrated an awareness of their individual roles and the lines of authority.
- (2) During a discussion with the registered provider and a review of records it was confirmed nine adults were employed to work directly with the children since the last inspection dated the 16 September 2024. The inspection focused on a review of these staff files and included a review of files for three students who were present on work placement. In total 12 files were reviewed as detailed below.
- In addition, Garda vetting for seven adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review as part of the inspection. The registered provider confirmed three of these adults are no longer employed in the service.
- (a), (b) Twelve written validated references were provided.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 12 adults. Renewed Garda vetting disclosures were available for 4 adults. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for six adults who had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as adults.
- (4) Documentation was available to show four adults employed to work 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 equivalent by the Department of Children. Four adults held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. One adult was employed for ancillary duties did not require a childcare qualification.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a), (b) There were no written validated references for one adult. Two adults had only one reference which had not been validated. A second reference provided for two adults were from unsuitable sources.

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0101 served.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had not been carried out prior to three adults commencing employment in the service as detailed above.

(7)(a) There was no written evidence available to demonstrate what training had been completed by the registered provider for eight adults who had been employed to work directly with the children since the last inspection on the 16 September 2024. This is not in line with the service's staff training and induction policy, which states that "a staff induction record form will be completed for all new staff." Furthermore, the policy specifies that supervision meetings will be held on a monthly basis, with records maintained by the supervisor. No such records were available for review.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) The one adult in question now has two reliable validated references on file. The two adults in question now have two reliable validated references on file. The two adults who had one reference from an unsuitable source now have the correct reference on file from a reliable source which has been validated. A checklist is now made for all staff and students to be filled in prior to starting in the service, where the checklist must be met before they start with us.

(3) The registered provider has made a checklist for all staff and students to be filled in prior to starting in the service, where the checklist must be met before they start with us. A new checklist for college/TY students who are working directly with the children will now have to meet the checklist requirements to coincide with Tulsa Regulation.

(7)(a) All staff training has been renewed and been recorded and is now kept on file to coincide with our policy. Supervision meetings will be recorded on a monthly basis and kept with the staff training records. Staff training records will now be signed before the staff training concludes. Supervision meetings will be held every 4 weeks 17/04/2026, 12/05/2026, 12/06/2026. Before leaving a supervision meeting, staff will be given the time and date

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

of their next supervision meeting. All dates will be recorded in a yearly diary, to make sure no meetings are missed.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a), (b) Copies of a validated references from required sources.

(7) (a) Copies of staff training records.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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 full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 33 children attending the service being supervised by 8 adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff members on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two staff to be on the premises at all times of opening.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) Meals and snacks were provided at regular intervals. Bibs were available to prevent the children's clothes from getting soiled or wet. Staff offered children water with their meals and drinking water was freely available throughout the day. Staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They assisted the children to clean their hands and faces after they finished eating their lunch. Throughout the morning children moved freely within their allocated rooms, engaging in free play and activities. Staff were observed to be kind, gentle and respectful in their interactions with the children. Staff were attentive to a child who displayed signs of being upset and unsettled. They held him gently and spoke to him in a positive way providing comfort and reassurance.

Younger children's nappies were checked and changed at regular intervals. Staff used these opportunities for warm one to one interactions. Older children used the toilet independently as they needed. Children who required sleep were provided with an opportunity to rest after their lunch. Low level beds were set up in the Ladybird room. Children were made comfortable for sleep with their outer clothing and shoes removed and given blankets. The blinds were closed and relaxing music was played to help create a restful environment. Staff sat with the children and helped soothe them to sleep. Staff record individual information including nappy changes, food, pictures of activities and sleep on an app which they said is used for two-way communication with parents/guardians. All children spent time in the outdoor play area. They wore coats appropriate to the weather when playing outdoors.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 doors to the service were adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and to ensure children could not exit unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of children's reach.
- The kitchen was inaccessible.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and single use paper towels were available to support effective hand hygiene practices. All children were observed to be supervised washing their hands after outdoor play, using the toilet and prior to eating.
- Staff were observed following the nappy changing policy and procedure for the service when changing children's nappies.
- Pedal operated bins were in use in care rooms and the sanitary areas to support the safe disposal of waste.
- Staff reported bed linen is laundered weekly. It was observed to be stored in individual labelled plastic containers.

Safe Sleep:

- Suitable low-level beds were provided for children to sleep and 50cm spacing was provided between beds.
- The room temperature was maintained at the required temperature.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly marked and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Staff adequately detailed the procedure to safely evacuate children from the service in the event of a fire.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN0103 served.

1. In the outdoor play area used by the Busy Bee and Butterfly rooms the heavy protective covering on the wall was torn exposing the concrete wall posing a potential safety risk.
2. The fridge door was broken posing a potential safety risk.
3. In the sanitary area serving the Ladybird and Caterpillar rooms, the water temperature was observed to fluctuate and was not thermostatically regulated. Temperatures recorded exceeded the recommended maximum of 43°C, posing a potential safety risk.

Infection Control:

4. In the Butterfly room the laminate cover was torn and could not be cleaned effectively.
5. In the outdoor area used by the Caterpillar and Ladybird rooms, a sensory-style table and a bean bag were observed to contain stagnant water and leaves, presenting a potential infection control risk. It is acknowledged that these items were promptly removed following the inspector drawing this to the attention of a staff member.

Administration of Medication:

6. Emergency medication required for a child identified with a medical condition was found to be expired in January 2026. This poses a potential risk to the child's health and safety, as this medication may not be effective in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The outdoor play areas heavy protective covering in question has now been covered and the concrete is no longer exposed. The registered provider will maintain the safety checklist completed every morning, ensuring any issues noted by any staff are fixed immediately. The registered provider will be more vigilant to our outdoor spaces for the health and safety of all children, as soon as we notice any risks these will be fixed immediately. The service are renovating our back gardens and have purchased new padding for the walls and the rubber floor tiles.
2. The fridge in question has been removed from the room.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The thermostat connected to the running water in the sanitary area has been turned down to the correct temperature. The service has a checklist now displayed on the wall in the sanitary area. This is now filled in every morning by management to ensure the right temperature is adhered to.

Infection Control:

- The Laminate covering on the tables in the butterfly room have been removed and replaced with new covering. The registered provider is in the process of purchasing new tables.
- The bean bag was removed from the garden promptly following the inspector drawing this to the attention of the staff member. The sensory-style table has been thoroughly cleaned and staff have been reminded that they must empty the sensory style tables each day after use and keep the covering lid on it. The bean bag has been removed from the garden and only toys adequate for the garden will be in the garden. Every morning when the safety checklists are completed, all staff will make sure that the garden is safe and clean prior to the children using the garden. Anything that needs to be cleaned and fixed will be completed immediately.

Administration of Medication:

- The parent of the child was contacted immediately when this was brought to management's attention and the parent was informed the child will not be allowed to return to the creche until we had two Epi Pens. The parent brought two new Epi Pens into the service on 09/04/2026 with an expiry date of 06/2027. The registered provider has taken note in the diary highlighting the expiry date of the medication and a reminder 1 month prior so this gives time to organize the replacement of the expired medication.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic and written evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic and written evidence.

Administration of Medication:

Photographic and written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 deputy person in charge and another staff member caring for the children had First Aid Responder certificates that were valid until the 12 April 2027 and the 17 May 2027.
- (2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in the service 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) The monthly record of fire drills was available. The last fire drill was completed on 30 March 2026.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. The fire fighting equipment was serviced on the 10 June 2025 and the smoke alarm was serviced on the 15 January 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each care room.