

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY352
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Name of Service:	Crumlin Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Pearse Memorial Park, Windmill Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 TV06
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Name of Registered Provider:	Brian Kenny
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	03/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	41	PM	36
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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:	S Quigley and R Brien
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Crumlin Childcare Centre is a not-for-profit large full day care service located in a residential area of Crumlin, Dublin 12. Care and education are provided to children aged between six months and six years and the service is currently registered to operate from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:00 hours. Five care rooms are available in the service four of which are in the main building and one which is located in a purpose built premises to the rear. A dedicated sleep room is also available. Three outdoor play areas are available to the children to the front of the premises and in internal courtyards.

Staffing

The service currently employs 20 staff members, including a cook and a housekeeper. On the day of inspection 19 adults were present including the person in charge, an adult on a work placement programme, and an adult from an external employment agency. The registered provider was not present during the inspection and does not work directly in the service.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Happy Feet, Nemo, Toy Story, and Hogwarts rooms.

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 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 seven adults commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 6 May 2025, including an adult on a work placement programme. An eighth adult was present and providing relief cover in the service on the day of inspection from an external agency. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these eight adults as detailed below.

- (a) (b) There were two written references each available for six of the adults which had been appropriately verified.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for each of the eight 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) Two of the new employees required international police vetting, the required documentation was available for one of the adults.
- (4) Three of the adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The other five adults did not require a qualification as they were employed under work placement and community employment programmes.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

- There were no written references available for one adult.
- The two written references available for one adult had not been appropriately verified.

(d)

- International police vetting was not available for one adult from a state they had resided in for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to some adults commencing employment in the service, as detailed above under regulation 9(2) and as follows:

- The references available for three staff members had not been appropriately verified prior to the adults commencing employment in the service.
- International police vetting was not available for one adult from a state they had resided in for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

(a)(b)

These were obtained immediately.

(d)

The staff involved was on leave until Monday 9th Feb, the relevant vetting arrived on Friday 6th Feb and was updated to staff file who returned to work on 9th Feb

(3)

While this cannot be updated retrospectively, the manager has been retrained in policies around verification of ref. All new staff will be included in the managers monthly report for checking purposes.

Review is currently being carried out in relation to policies and procedures. All staff files to be double checked by Admin before start date to ensure compliance. Training will be held for all office or management staff in regulation 9 by end March when policies are updated. In all future all international vetting will be required before starting employment. A new section on board agenda for new staff to oversee all paperwork has been completed before start dates.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

Summary Comment

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.

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-one children present in the service being supervised by thirteen adults during the inspection. The person in charge provided relief cover to the care rooms when required.

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

Staff reported that regular meals and snacks are provided to the children in attendance daily by the service which are prepared on site, including a hot lunch. Staff members sat with children during mealtimes and encouraged younger children to feed themselves. Drinking water was accessible to the children and rest areas were available in each care room. Children were comforted promptly when they became upset. Staff spoke respectfully to the children and demonstrated warmth and kindness during interactions observed by the inspectors. The children

were observed to be content and engaged in their child led play during the inspection. Staff members intervened early during minor disputes between children and promoted positive behaviour management. Children were encouraged to be independent in their care rooms including tidying up after activities and meals.

Older children accessed the toilet independently and younger children had their nappies changed at regular intervals and when required. The programme of care in place in the service was observed to be play based and child led in approach. The care rooms were adequately resourced with a variety of play materials that were accessible to the children on low level shelving units, providing the children with choice in their chosen activities. An outdoor play area was available to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

Some sleep care practices observed on the day of inspection did not meet the individual needs of the children in attendance and may negatively affect the health and wellbeing of a child as follows;

- Two children were observed displaying signs of tiredness in the Nemo room from 11:36am on the day of inspection crying, yawning, and rubbing their eyes. Staff members discussed the children being overtired during this time and stated during discussions with the inspector that the children do not sleep prior to dinner time as they cannot put out the beds. The two children remained upset and displaying signs of tiredness until 12:05pm and 11:58am when they were placed to sleep before dinner.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff in Baby Room (Happy Feet) & Wobbler Room (Nemo) were retrained on safe sleep and child led nap time. The cot room has assigned two cots for Nemo which will support the children to access sleep before the main room is ready. The policy has been put on the walls in the rooms and details are available if there is staff cover who may not normally work in the rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. The care rooms and outdoor play area were observed to be safe and free from hazards.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff and children were observed to carry out consistent hand washing as appropriate. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. Individual care plans were in place for children requiring emergency medication.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room 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 allocated to

children appropriately. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were 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.

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)

An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of inspection.

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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service on a regular basis.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframes.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.