

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DY373
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Treasures Preschool Playgroup
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	50 La Touche Road, Bluebell, Bluebell, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D12 DE09
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Breda Bowes
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	17/06/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	6
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Quigley
<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

Little Treasures Preschool Playgroup is a privately owned full day care service and is one of two services operated by the registered provider in Dublin 12. The service is located in an urban, residential area of Bluebell, South Co. Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between 1 and 6 years and the service is open from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 17:00 hours. Little Treasures is a purpose-built single storey property which is located at the rear of the registered providers own home. The service comprises of one open plan care room, a dedicated sleep room, a kitchen, and sanitary accommodation. The children have access to an outdoor play area on the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs five staff members, including the registered provider and an adult who carries out cleaning duties. There were four staff members present during the inspection, including 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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations;

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

Regulation 29 - Premises

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, 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 registered provider it was confirmed that one adult had commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of the adult as detailed below. Regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed for all five adults employed in the service.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the five adults. 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) Not applicable, the adult did not require international police vetting.

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

(4) Not applicable, the registered provider reported the adult worked solely in an auxiliary role and not directly with the children.

## 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 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 four children present in the service being supervised by two adults during the morning, and six children being supervised by three adults during the afternoon of the inspection.
- (8) (a) The registered provider stated there were two adults working in the service at all times during the prescribed opening hours. Staff members employed to work in the service confirmed this during discussions with the inspector.

### 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) Records were reviewed for all eleven children attending the service by the inspector.

The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a) to (i) of the above Regulation for all of the records reviewed.

### 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:*

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (i) A staff roster was not available in the service on the day of inspection detailing the staff members present in the service and the hours of work undertaken.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance above under Regulation 16(1)(i).

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

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

A staff roster has been printed and is now on display on our information board. A staff member has been given a role to ensure the roster is on display and up to date with any changes.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

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

### Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 inspector observed appropriate care practices in place in the service during the inspection.

The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be mostly child-led, and children were visibly content and engaged in their play activities with peers and staff members during the inspection. The children were all afforded the opportunity to play outdoors, and staff dressed children appropriate to the weather in sunhats and light clothing. Staff were observed using positive reinforcement when resolving minor conflicts and encouraging children to use their words, take turns, and problem solve. Children were comforted promptly when upset and staff demonstrated kindness during all interactions observed by the inspector and provided warm individual engagement when assisting children with personal care. Younger children's nappies were changed regularly and staff supported older children in using the toilet independently.

Staff reported that lunch is provided by the parents or guardians of the children in attendance. Breakfast, an afternoon snack, and a hot meal are provided by the service for children attending on a full day care basis. The hot meal is provided by an external catering company and re-constituted on site. Children were encouraged to assist

in the preparation for mealtimes handing out drinks and lunchboxes. Mealtimes were observed to be relaxed and sociable with staff sitting with the children, eating with them and engaged in conversation. Drinking water was accessible to the children in each care room throughout the inspection. Staff assisted children in cleaning their hands and faces after meals. Children were provided with the opportunity to sleep after lunch time.

### 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 inspector 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 entrance gate to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. 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 were stored securely out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins throughout the service. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

##### Administration of Medication:

The registered provider reported that the service do not routinely administer medications in the service. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector. Documentation was available to record such administration if required, a sample of this documentation was reviewed by the inspectors and was appropriate.

##### Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour and position every ten minutes. Standard low-level beds and cots

were provided for the children who were all over two years to rest as required. A designated cot room was available in the service.

### 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.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. An electrical cord was trailing from an unused air filtration unit in reach of the children in the bathroom during the inspection.

#### Infection Control:

Some practices were observed in the service were at variance with the infection control policies in place and posed a potential risk of cross contamination as follows:

2. On the morning of inspection, a communal hand towel was in use to dry children and staff member's hands after handwashing.
3. Perishable items contained in the children's lunch boxes were not refrigerated prior to lunch time and remained in their bags in the care room which was recorded to be 23.6°Celsius during the inspection posing the risk of gastrointestinal illness.
4. Some of the nappy changing practices observed were ineffective for infection control and at variance with the policy and procedure in place;
  - The nappy changing mat was not cleaned between changes for three nappy changes observed by the inspector.
  - A staff member was observed to re-dress three children wearing the soiled gloves used during the nappy change.

#### Safe Sleep:

5. The temperature of the care room and the cot room where children aged two years slept on the day of inspection exceeded the required temperature range of 18 - 22°Celsius. This was at variance with the safe sleep policy in place in the service and posed a risk of harm to a child as follows;
  - At 12:20pm the temperature of the Toddler Room was recorded to be 23.6°Celsius whilst children aged two years were sleeping.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance under points 3 and 4 above of Regulation 23.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The air filtering unit has been placed in the main room to help maintain the rooms temperature with the cord securely away from the children. The unit will be removed once the air conditioning system has been installed.

##### Infection Control:

2. Hand towels are now fully stocked in the holding units fitted across the setting. Staff members have been informed that when the hand towel supply low they have permission to place and order for more.
3. The children's lunches are now placed in labelled zip lock bags in the fridge. Staff have been informed and showed where the lunches must now be placed.
4. A staff meeting has been held, and staff were corrected on the nappy changing policy. Copy of the policy is now displayed where the nappy changing unit is.

##### Safe Sleep:

5. Temporary air conditioning units have been placed in the setting. An air conditioning system is getting built into the settings building.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

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

#### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

Although it is acknowledged an adult had in date paediatric first aid training, there were no adults available in the service trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) on the day of inspection as required.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance identified above under Regulation 25(1).

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

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

A staff member has been booked onto a FAR course with responsive training. Two members per room will have FAR to avoid no one having it if a staff member is not in the setting.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

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

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*

*(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There was no evidence to show that maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place in the service.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance identified above under Regulation 26(1)(b).

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

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

A new fire and smoke maintenance book has been purchased for the setting which keeps track of the maintenance checks done. The new book will be kept in the room and up to date.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years 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.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

### Non-Compliance Information

The premises were not adequately ventilated on the day of inspection. The room temperature was recorded to be 24.1° Celsius during the inspection which is above the required range of 18-22° Celsius. Staff members opened a windows and doors, however the temperature only reduced to 23.6° Celsius.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance identified above under Regulation 29(c).

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Temporary air conditioning units have been placed in the setting. An air conditioning system is getting built into the settings building.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years 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.