

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015FL039

Name of Service: Tigers Childcare

Address of Service: 20 St. Samson's Square, Balgriffin, Dublin 13

Eircode: D13 Y542

Name of Registered Provider: Therese Noonan

Service type: Full Day, Part Time, Sessional

Date of Inspection: 24/06/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	58	PM	59

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Finnegan Hayes & T. Nelson
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.

Description of service

Tigers Childcare is a privately operated full day care service located in a residential area in Dublin 13. The service caters for up to 107 children aged 0-6 years per day in a purpose-built building with eight care rooms, two cot rooms, a kitchen, laundry room, sanitary facilities, a staff room and an office. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. The care rooms include:

Room name	Age group
Discoveries 1	6-12 months
Discoveries 2	12-20 months
Discoveries 3	20-28 months
Explorers 1	2- 2.5 years
Explorers 2	2- 3 years
Explorers 3	2-4 years
Active cubs	3- 4 years
ECCE room	closed

The ECCE room was closed on the day of inspection. Sanitary facilities are accessible within each care room. An enclosed outdoor space available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a total of 26 staff including person in charge, deputy person in charge, 1 school age staff member, 21 Early years staff, a cook and a cleaner. There were 20 staff present on the morning of inspection along with an adult from a local preschool support service; two additional staff arrived in the service at lunchtime in line with the roster. The quality support manager attended the service to support the inspection but did not work directly with the children in the service. The registered provider does not work 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, and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment was reviewed in relation to new staff who had commenced employment since the last inspection along with two Garda vetting disclosures which had expired since the last inspection.
- Regulation 15 Records in relation to the Preschool child was reviewed using a random sample of 20 records from across all care rooms.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Welfare, Health and Development of child was reviewed in Explorers 1 & 2, Discoveries 3 and Active Cubs 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, quality support manager, 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-

- (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.

(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) (b) There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required. The person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced and was present for the duration of the inspection.

(c) A clearly defined management structure was in place in the service.

(2) Discussion with management, a review of the roster and Tusla records showed that 11 new staff have commenced employment in the service since the last inspection. The files of these staff were reviewed in full along with the file of the quality support manager who attended the service on the day of the inspection. An updated Garda vetting disclosure was also reviewed in relation to one staff member who was present on the previous inspection as our records showed that previous Garda vetting had since expired.

(a)(b) Twenty- four written and verified references were available from a past employer in relation to 12 adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 13 staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available in relation to seven adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Evidence was available to show that 11 staff members who work directly with the children held 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.

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) There were 58 preschool children being cared for by 17 adults on the morning of inspection. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were available to cover breaks and assist in the care rooms as required.

(2) Ratios were maintained during the inspection. The following was observed:

Room	Age range	No. of children	No. of Adults present	Adults required
Discoveries 1	6-12 months	2	2	1
Discoveries 2	12-20 months	8	2	2
Discoveries 3	20-28 months	6	2	2
Explorers 1	2- 2.5 years	7	2	2

Explorers 2	2- 3 years	9	3	2
Explorers 3	2-4 years	12	2	2
Active cubs	3- 4 years	14	4	2

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) The registered provider ensured that the particulars required under (a) to (i) above were maintained in relation to the preschool children attending. A sample of twenty child record forms were reviewed as part of the inspection.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the information required under (a) to (g) of Regulation 16 (1) was available to the parents of children attending the service. The following was reviewed;

- An information pack is provided to parents when they enrol their child in the service.
- Parents can access the service policies through the service website. Hard copies are provided on request.
- Details of staffing including photographs of the staff team are displayed in the entrance hall.
- The service Tusla registration certificate was displayed in the hallway and details the service which they are registered to provide.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered provider ensured there were adequate facilities for children to play indoors and outdoors during the day. The following was observed;

- The care rooms were large with clearly defined play areas and provided ample space for movement between activities.

- Materials and equipment were readily available and accessible to the children on low level shelving.
- A large secure outdoor area was available to the children. The toys and equipment available supported a range of play experiences and skills. A range of toys and equipment were available to the children.

(b)

- The service provided an adequate number of cots, sleep pods and sleep mats for the age and number of children in attendance.
- Rest areas were available to the children in each care room consisting of a large mats and cushions which allowed the children to rest and take a break from activities during the day.

(3) (a) A large outdoor play space was provided on the premises.

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 to the service was secure and staff were observed to attend the door to allow access which prevented unauthorised persons accessing the service. A second secure door which will not open until the first door has closed provided an additional containment area to prevent persons entering without staff knowledge.
- The entrance is comprised of two doors which are fitted with release buttons at adult height which prevented children leaving the service unsupervised. An additional door which also has a release button at adult height provided an additional barrier preventing children from the older age groups accessing the entrance hall.
- Grapes which were provided by parents for snack were cut appropriate to minimise the risk of choking.
- Storage areas were adequately secured to prevent access by children.
- Toys and equipment were maintained in good condition free from hazards preventing risks to the children.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

- Lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Warm water, dispensed soap and paper handtowels were available in sanitary areas to support adequate hand hygiene.
- Pedal operated bins were available in all sanitary accommodation for disposal of contaminated items.
- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained. Cleaning sheets were available and complete to date.

Administration of Medication:

- The service was observed to follow their exclusion policy for a child who had been sent home with an infectious illness. This limited the risk of the illness spreading to other children in the service.
- The service ensured the safety of a child who required emergency medication. Staff were knowledgeable of the procedure to be followed in the event of an emergency and the location of the child's medication was clearly signposted in the care room and known by staff.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed to conduct regular checks of sleeping children and record details of the children's colour, breathing and position.
- An ambient temperature of 16-20°C was maintained in rooms where children under 1 year old were sleeping and 18-22°C where children over 1 year old were sleeping.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits throughout the service were observed to be unobstructed.
- Staff were knowledgeable of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire emergency

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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and that a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service.

(2) (a)(b) Adequately stocked first aid boxes were provided in each care room, stored out of reach of the children but accessible to staff as needed.