

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL192
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Name of Service:	Little Stars Scoil Bhride Boys
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Address of Service:	Scoil Bhride Boys, Church Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.
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Eircode:	D15 Y592
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Name of Registered Provider:	Katarzyna Wlodarska
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	29/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	21
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte
Title:	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).

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Description of service

Little Stars Scoil Bhride Boys is a sessional preschool service registered for children between 2 to 6 years of age. The service is one of seven services owned by the registered provider. The service operates from 9:00am-12:00pm Monday to Friday catering to maximum of 44 children and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme. The service operates from two large care rooms with adjoining sanitary and is located on the first floor of Scoil Bhride Boys. The service has access to a large enclosed outdoor area within the school grounds and indoor sports hall. The service also operates a registered School Age Service in the afternoon.

Staffing

The registered provider currently employs four staff including the designated person in charge to work in the preschool service. All staff work directly with the children. On the day of inspection three staff including the designated person in charge were present.

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 Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child.

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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 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,*

(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*

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- (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

- (1) The registered provider ensured that;
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) Documentary evidence showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (2) Following a review of available documents and a conversation with the person in charge it was established that the service currently employs four staff who all work directly with the preschool children attending the service. The full files of all for staff were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
- (a) Six written references were available from past employers, four of which were validated.
 - (b) Two and validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for four adults. 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 for three adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that three staff members who worked 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.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) (a) There were no reference validations available for one staff member who had commenced in the service. Checks must be completed prior to a person having access to the children in order to assist in establishing they are appropriate to have access to children.

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- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that adequate checks were conducted prior to two staff members starting. A review of documentation demonstrated that two staff members had reference validations dated after they had commenced in the service. Checks must be completed prior to a person having access to the children in order to assist establishing they are appropriate to have access to children.
- (4) Evidence was not available to show that one staff member who worked 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.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (a) Written references were sought and verified for the staff member. The registered provider along with management have create a checklist to ensure all members of staff have 2 valid and verified references on file prior to commencing in the service to prevent reoccurrence.
- (3) The manager is now aware that references need to be completed prior to any new staff member commencing in the service. The registered provider along with management have create a checklist to ensure all members references are verified prior to commencing in the service to prevent reoccurrence.
- (4) A letter of recognition from the DCEDIY has been requested for this staff member. The staff member will not be included in ratio until the letter is received. All new potential candidates will be required to apply for a DECDIY letter if they do not have a full award certificate.

Supporting documentation submitted

Staff file requirement checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance under subsections (2)(a) and (3) and has attempted to address the non-compliance under (4) however this remains outstanding. Evidence of a qualification recognition must be provided to the inspectorate when it is received.

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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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their care needs.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Three staff were allocated to work directly with 21 children present.

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.*

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(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that of the sample 10 records reviewed the following was maintained in each record:
- (a) The name and date of birth for each child was available for the 10 files reviewed.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
 - (c) Each of the 10 files reviewed were of children still currently attending and detailed the expected leave date.
 - (d) The relevant contact details for parents and or guardians were available.
 - (e) Authorisation to collect a child.
 - (f) Relevant details relating to the health and care of a child.
 - (g) The contact details of the child's doctor.
 - (h) The child's immunisation record.
 - (i) Written consent for emergency medical treatment if required.
- (3)
- (c) All the records requested were available for review by the inspector on the day of the inspection.

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-
- (a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and
 - (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.

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Compliance Information

(1) (a) The registered provider ensured the following practices, materials and equipment were in place to facilitate the learning, development and wellbeing for children:

Basic Needs:

- Children's lunches were provided from home, and the lunch time experience was observed to be sociable, where staff and children sat together. Staff ensured children had ample time to enjoy their meal.
- Children were supported with toileting as necessary and were respectively given toileting reminders.
- A drinks station was available to children within the care room.
- Children were informed on the routine of the day and given clear guidance at times of transition. Staff informed the children of the visitor to their care room.

Supporting Relationships:

- Staff were observed to engage with the children in a warm, sensitive manner, seated at their level, actively listening and engaging in the play.
- Books created about the children's communities and families were present in the library.
- Staff praised children's efforts of self-care tasks such as handwashing and placing lunches away supporting independence.

Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms were laid out in an inviting and accessible manner for children. Toys and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured the children's independence and facilitated their choice.
- Well- resourced areas of interest were available and included a sand play area, home area, small world play area, arts and crafts, tabletop area, block play and library area. Real life equipment and play props extended the play experiences.
- A rest area was available in the event children wanted to take a break from activities.

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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:

- Staff were aware of the number of children present in their care.
- Furniture, toys and equipment were observed maintained in good condition and suitable for use.
- The care rooms were located on the first floor, and window restrictors were observed in place.
- Cleaning products were safely stored, and safety locks were in place on low level storage presses.

Infection Control:

- Windows were open allowing fresh air to circulate.
- A weekly cleaning schedule was displayed and completed up to date.
- Children's snack from home was observed to be appropriately refrigerated.
- Dispensed soap and warm water were available to support effective hand hygiene practises.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff confirmed no child in attendance required emergency medication and none was stored on the premises.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedure was clearly displayed in both care rooms.
- An accurate attendance record was maintained of both staff and children. This practice supports safe evacuation in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A child's lunch included fruit that was not quartered or halved before serving. This posed a potential choking hazard. It is acknowledged this was promptly addressed when brought to staffs' attention by the inspector.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Management have sent a message out to parents with images of how fruit needs to be cut. This image has also been shared with staff members and displayed in the service. The management and staff of the service will ensure snacks are checked on arrival to the service, if fruit need to be cut appropriate prior to giving to children.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 23 has been addressed.

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) There was documentary evidence available to demonstrate that a person trained to First Aid Responder level was available to children attending during the operational hours of the service the week of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2) The registered provider did not ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box was available. A review of first aid boxes in both care rooms and a conversation with the person in charge confirmed there was no burn dressings available. A suitably equipped first aid box including two burn dressings should be available at all times to support the care and safety of children attending the service.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) The items missing from the first aid box have been purchased and added to the first aid box. The registered provider and management have created a checklist to ensure that all items are present at all times and checked on a monthly basis.

Supporting documentation submitted

First aid box monthly contents checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under regulation 25 has been addressed.