

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL224
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	19 Nephin Road, Dublin 7.
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Eircode:	D07 R27A
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	31	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	JA. McKimm
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

Tigers Childcare is one of thirty services owned by the registered provider. The service offers sessional, full day care and afterschool care. The service operates Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6:00pm and participates in the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from a two-storey building and there are five care rooms in the service. Junior and Senior Discoverers are located on the ground floor along with sanitary facilities, a cot room, and an office. Explorers, Active cubs and ECCE/School aged childcare rooms are located on the first floor along with sanitary facilities, kitchen, and a staff room. The ECCE and School aged care room was closed on the day of inspection for preschool children. There are two outdoor areas on the premises; one located at that the front, and one located at the rear of the premises

Room name	Age group
Discoverers Juniors	1 year -2 years
Discoverers Seniors	2 years -3 years
Explorers	3 years -4 years
Active Cubs	3 years -6 years
ECCE and SAC	3 years -6 years and school aged children

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs a total of fifteen staff to work in the service. This includes the person in charge and the deputy person in charge who provide support to the service when required, ten early years educators and three adults who are employed in ancillary roles, two as cooks and one as a cleaner. On the day of inspection there was a person in charge, a deputy person in charge and two ancillary staff present. There were eight staff working directly with the children The area quality support manager arrived during the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider and the operations manager attended the closing meeting remotely.

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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.

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.

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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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice INO268	07/05/2026	Evidence of police vetting was not available for one adult who had access and was working directly with children.
Status	The registered provider submitted a detailed response with corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate and addressed the statutory notice. The police vetting must be provided to the inspectorate prior to the person having access to children.	

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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
- (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

(1)

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A designated person in charge was rostered to be on the premises during the opening hours of the service on the day of inspection. The person in charge and deputy person in charge were present in the service when the inspectors arrived and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and staff reported being aware of this.

(2) A review of paperwork and discussion with management showed that there are currently fifteen adults employed by the registered provider to work within the service. The files of fifteen adults were reviewed. This

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included the person in charge, deputy person in charge, ten adults, two cooks and a cleaner. The garda vetting of the registered provider was also reviewed.

- (a) There were thirty written and validated references available from past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for sixteen 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 eight adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to fifteen adults before employment commenced.

(4) Twelve adults 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 eligible by the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

- (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice 0268 served.

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.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

- (a) a sessional pre-school service, and*
- (b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both, the minimum ratio of adults to children applicable for the duration of the sessional pre-school service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the ratio specified in paragraph (3).*

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Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that staffing levels were adequate to respond to the individual needs of the children throughout the inspection. There were eight adults caring for thirty-one children on the morning of inspection and eight adults caring for thirty children on the afternoon.
- (4) The minimum ratio of adults to children was always maintained throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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*

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The following activities, interactions, materials and equipment was observed to support children's learning and development:

Basic Needs

- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. They engaged children in conversations about home life, their interests and activities within the room supporting the development of relationships and a sense of belonging.
- The service promoted healthy eating and provided two hot meals which were prepared onsite. On the day of inspection children were observed to be served toasted ham and cheese wraps and fruit at 11:30am. At 2:30pm roasted vegetable and tomato sauce served with pasta was served; there was an alternative option available. Children were observed to be offered extra portions.
- Water was accessible to children in care rooms throughout the day of inspection.
- Mealtimes were observed to be sociable and enjoyable events, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children.
- Children's artwork, photographs, birthday charts and family walls were displayed throughout the four care rooms, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service.

Supporting Relationships

- Staff were observed interacting positively with children for example they sang action songs, danced and engaged them in playful, interactive activities. In addition, they provided comfort to children when they showed signs of distress or upset.
- Staff discussed how they support children to transition to school. For example, staff talked about the visual prompts in the Active Cubs room which included photographs of school uniforms and school bags. Afterschool children who attend the service are invited to chat to the preschoolers about their school experiences: what their school day is like and what is inside the classrooms. Staff also spoke about the range of reading materials to help children to become familiar with their new school environment.
- Children's language development was supported through conversations, activity times, circle time, singing songs and storytelling activities which were observed during the inspection.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- The rooms were well laid out with designated areas of interest to provide for distinct types of play and learning.

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 gate leading into the premises was appropriately secured with a keypad to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises. The inspector was asked to show identification and sign in the visitor book.
- The two enclosed outdoor play areas were secure reducing the risk of unauthorised access. Children who were brought out to the outdoor play areas from indoors were observed to be supervised.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

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- All the furniture, toys and equipment were observed to be in good condition in the rooms.
- All window blinds were appropriately secured.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care rooms, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available in all the sinks used by children and staff.
- Children's nappy creams were individually labelled.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not administered to any children on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep practices were in line with current safe sleep guidance. Children under two slept on appropriate floor beds.
- The temperature of the rooms was maintained between 18-22°C whilst children were sleeping. A log was maintained where the temperature of the room and the colour, breathing and position of sleeping children was checked every 10 minutes.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency and fire exits were signposted and unobstructed and staff were aware of the evacuation procedures and location of the assembly point.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The outdoor play area contained damaged items which posed potential risks to children's safety. This included:
 - Broken spindle on railing on back wall of outdoor play area.
 - Broken square bracket mount on back wall which posed a pinch risk.
 - Worn and flaking exterior paintwork on the wall of outdoor play area.

On the morning of inspection, a young child was observed to be playing in the area.
2. The sanitary basin designated for children washing their hands in a care room was found to be defective. Consequently, on the day of inspection children did not wash their hands in line with HSPC guidance in relation to infection control protection measures. It is acknowledged that this issue was highlighted in the daily risk assessment carried out by the service.

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Infection Control:

3. Hand washing was observed to be at variance with the service hand-washing policy and was not in line with best practice. This was evidenced by the following:
- Children not washing their hands after outdoor play and before mealtimes
 - Pedal operated foot bins not being used effectively to ensure hygiene disposal of paper towels.
- This posed a risk of infection and cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Maintenance has taken place in outdoor play area-the broken spindle and the square bracket mount have been repaired, and painting work has been carried out by maintenance.
2. Children were directed to use an alternative sink outside of the classroom and staff in all care rooms were briefed on communicating risks identified when carrying out risk assessments with the manager.

Infection Control:

3. Staff were briefed on the service's infection control policy and the alternative options for handwashing in the instance of their main option not being in operation. This item was on the agenda in staff meeting to ensure that staff are aware of the back-up plan when issues arise for infection control and how to communicate risks to management.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Evidence has been submitted.

Infection Control:

Evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

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

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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 to show that three adults held certification in First Aid Response training and that at least one adult was rostered to on the premises at all times.
- (2) (a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available to the adults caring for the children and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

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 records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 28 April 2026.
 - (b) Records demonstrated that the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place in December 2025.
- (4) There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.