

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL320
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	c/o Ongar Community Centre, Ongar Village, Ongar, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	04/03/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	n/a
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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, Dublin 8 D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Griffin
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

Tigers Childcare is part of a number of services which are operated by the registered provider. This crèche provides a sessional service which is located in a community centre on the grounds of a primary school. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years old and is open from Monday to Friday between 9.15 am and 12.15pm. A school age service is also provided. The service is located on the ground floor and the first floor of the community centre. There is access to an indoor dance area and an outdoor play area onsite.

Staffing

The registered provider employs six adults including the person in charge and one agency staff worker to work in the service. When the inspector arrived, there were five adults working directly with the children. The person in charge arrived at the service following the commencement of the inspection. 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(4)-Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)-Staffing Levels

Regulation 15-Record of a Pre-School Child

Regulation 21- Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23-Safeguarding the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Child

Regulation 25- First Aid

Regulation 26- Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28- Insurance

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels and Regulation 21 Equipment and materials were assessed across all rooms. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the two preschool rooms: Preschool 1 and Preschool 2.

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, 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) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was present in the service when the inspector arrived.

(2) A review of paperwork and conversation with the person in charge showed that there are currently 6 adults employed in the service including the person in charge, one agency staff and one adult who works in another service operated by the registered provider but was present on the day of inspection. The files of all six adults were reviewed.

(a)(b) Twelve written and twelve validated references were available in relation to six staff.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all six 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 for two adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that six adults who worked directly with children attending the service 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 and Youth Affairs.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) There was an adequate number of adults working directly with children at all times during the inspection. There were five adults working directly with 38 children.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained. The following ratios were observed:

- The Preschool Room 1, there were sixteen children aged between 2 years 8 months to five years old being cared for by three adults at 9.39am in the morning.
- The Preschool Room 2, there were sixteen children aged between 2 years 8 months to five years old being cared for by two adults at 9.42am in the morning.

(8)(c) Not applicable as the service does not operate as a single-handed service.

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.*

(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

Ten of the children's registration forms were requested for review. There was a record in writing containing the following particulars:

- (1)(a) The name and date of birth of the child was available for ten children.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service was available for ten children.
- (c) Provision to record the date on which the child ceased to attend the service was available for ten children.
- (d) The name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service was available for ten children.
- (e) Authorisation for the collection of the child was available for ten children.
- (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 was available for ten children.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner where the family has registered with a general practice was available for ten children.

(h) Record of child's immunisation information was available for ten children.

(i) Written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency was available for ten children.

(3)(c) Children's Registration records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were provided.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The care rooms in the service were designed with the age and stage of development having been taken into consideration. Children were observed to take part in free play, small group, and large group work. The layout of the rooms facilitated these choices as the toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving and were visible and accessible to the children. There was a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in each care room. Cosy areas with soft seating, cushions and books for rest and relaxation were present in both preschool rooms.
- There was a sense of identity and belonging throughout the service. Evidenced by the presence of family wall displays, birthday time displays, children's artwork and children's individual coat hooks were personalised with a photograph of each child.
- There was an emerging interest wall and the equipment in the room reflected the children's interests and their emergent curriculum.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children according to their age and stage of development, stored in photographic labelled boxes and on low shelves to include: arts and crafts materials directly accessible to the children with a variety of materials such as stampers, paint, paint pots, glue, pencils, markers, and chalk. There were home areas with play kitchens with supporting equipment and play food. There were dolls, toy pushchairs, toy vacuum cleaner and toy highchair for feeding the dolls. There was a range of construction toys to include a construction workstation, wooden building blocks, plastic building bricks, stickle bricks; sorting and stacking toys; toys for transporting such as cars trucks and a garage, trains with train tracks.

- Language and literacy were supported in both preschool care rooms through circle time, songs, and stories. In addition, there was the presence of literacy visual wall displays such as days, months, seasons, and the solar system.
- The service promoted children’s gross motor development. This was evidenced by the presence of an outdoor play area and an indoor dance area with a large mirror on the wall. Staff discussed how the children enjoy dancing, listening to music and seeing themselves in the mirror.

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 door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Snacks from home were stored in a fridge.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- All sockets were observed to have socket covers.
- The kitchen area was not accessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Warm water and dispensed hand soap and hand towels were available throughout the service to facilitate adequate hand washing.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned after activities and before and after mealtimes.
- Handwashing was done frequently throughout the day.
- There were pedal operated bins in the two care rooms and the two sanitary areas.

Fire Safety:

- Staff were knowledgeable of the procedure for fire evacuation.
- Fire exits were unobstructed during the inspection.

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 service provided evidence that an adult trained in First Aid Response was available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and were safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous positions in the service.

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.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,

(b) an employee, and

(c) an authorised person.

(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 record of monthly fire drills was available in the service. The most recent fire drill took place on 28 February 2024.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment was up to date. Fire extinguishers were last serviced in November 2023 and the smoke detection system in April 2024.

(2)(c) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were provided.

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire were displayed in prominent positions at the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the number of children the service can accommodate at one time and an expiry date 27 March 2024.