

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL321
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	Diswellstown Recreation & Community Centre, Diswellstown Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 VH05
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	13/11/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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 a private childcare service which is part of a number of childcare services. The service is located in Diswellstown Recreation and Community Centre, Dublin 15, on the grounds and adjoined to St. Patricks National School, Diswellstown. A sessional service is provided Monday to Friday from 8:40am-11:40am, to children from 2 to 6 years. A school aged service is also provided. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service consists of 2 care rooms, Junior room and Senior room with sanitary facilities. An outdoor area was available to the service on the grounds of the school.

Staffing

On the day of inspection, the person in charge was present with three staff members. The registered provider arrived at 11.40am to attend the feedback meeting.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(3)

Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1)(a)(b) (4)

Regulation 28 Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection was the two care rooms of the service – Junior room and Senior Room.

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, 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

(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

(2) The files of four adults employed in the service to include the person in charge and three staff were reviewed as part of the inspection.

(a) Two written and validated references were available in relation to three adults and one written and validated reference was available for one adult from a past employer and

(b) One written and validated reference was available for one adult, from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for four adults. The service has also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in 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 outside the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the four 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.

Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, for the session, four adults worked with 23 children aged between 2 years 8 months and 5 years from 8.40am to 11.40am.

(3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times, as follows:

Room	No. of Children aged 2years 8 months to 5 years	No of Adults present
Junior Room	7	2
Senior Room	16	2
Total	23	4

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)(a) to (i)

On review of the documentation relating to a sample of ten children's files within the service, the required information and detail was available and completed for each of the 10 files reviewed.

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 two rooms were bright and laid out in an inviting manner to enable children to explore their environment, with play materials easily accessible on low shelving.
- The materials and equipment were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending each room nurturing children's independence, ability to make decisions, and develop their play opportunities and laid out in a variety of designated areas of interest for the children with activities including; hairdressing equipment and dolls with paper attached for a hairdressing activity whereby children could cut the paper hair of the doll at the dressing table, doctor sets, small world play – dinosaurs, animals, dolls house with supporting equipment , diggers, trains, tracks, trucks and cars, garage and road map rug, construction- wooden building blocks, magnetics, stickies, connects, plastic bricks, stickle bricks, jigsaws, wooden puzzles, for arts and crafts – mark making materials, stickers, sticks, scissors, paper and paint directly accessible to the children.
- The furniture provided in both care rooms was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were a sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played, completed table tops activities and when all children ate their lunches.
- Cosy areas soft mat and cushions with books for rest and relaxation were present.

- The use of family pictures of the children and their extended family displayed on the walls of both classrooms, along with pictures of each child in their community reinforced each child's identity and belonging within the service and in their wider community. This can provide familiarity and comfort to children.
- The children engaged in outdoor play while under the supervision of adults, the junior room enjoyed outdoor play from 11.23am to 11.37am and the staff informed the inspector that the senior room enjoyed outdoor play from 9.30am to 10am. The surface was tarmacadam with a section of artificial grass. The person in charge confirmed to the inspector that play equipment is brought out for the children each day.

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:

- On arrival to the service, the inspector observed, the entrance gates were secure.
- Access to the service via a door with a bell was monitored by staff to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service and preventing children from leaving the service unsupervised. The outdoor play area was secure, while children played outside.
- Attendance records were available for review, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the Junior room was recorded as 18.5°C at 10.15am and of the Senior room was recorded as 18.0°C at 10.06am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.

Infection Control:

- Liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children were observed to wash their hands after toilet visits and before lunch.
- Children lunches which were brought from home were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items.
- The service was visually clean with cleaning records and risk assessments completed daily and available.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Thermostatically controlled warm water was not available in the sanitary facilities to promote effective handwashing, as follows:

Sanitary facility for Junior room	Temperature recorded	Time
Wash hand basin 1	16.5 °C	10.21am
Wash hand basin 2	16.5 °C	10.21am
Sanitary facility for Senior room	Temperature recorded	Time
Wash hand basin 1	16.7 °C	10.20am
Wash hand basin 2	16.7 °C	10.20am

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. All colleagues were briefed on the procedure to record the actions taken to control water temperatures. The school has made adjustments on boiler and on the mixer values and a process has now been put in place. Temperatures were being checked twice each morning to facilitate the adjustments by the school to ensure the temperatures were adequate, these are being monitored by the team daily. Temperatures are checked daily. All colleagues were briefed on the procedure to record the actions taken if these are not reaching acceptable temperatures for effective handwashing. For all maintenance issues a 'Maintenance Request form' is completed on our EHS system and submitted to the operations team. The facilities coordinator arranges our maintenance team or third-party engineer to attend to the issue. Colleagues were reminded to risk assess and flag any areas of concern during their Daily Risk Assessments and note these on a Maintenance Request Form when required. Manager will supervise and monitor practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Photographic Evidence

Summary Comment

Under Regulation 23, the non-compliance outlined above 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) The service provided evidence that two adults trained in First Aid Response were available to the children attending the pre-school.

(2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in both the Junior and senior rooms of the service and were available to the adults responsible for the children.

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) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 17 of October 2024.

(b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment were last serviced on 31 January 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on 20 September 2024.

(4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the walls of both the Junior and Senior rooms and was observed by the Inspector.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 42 children in a sessional service with an expiry date of 27 March 2025.