

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	Tu2015FL322
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	Tyrrelstown Community Centre, Hollywood Rath Holbstown Road, Tyrrelstown, Dublin
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Eircode:	D15 PWY2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	22/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	25	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 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

Tigers Childcare is a privately owned sessional pre-school and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 33 children aged 2 to 6 years old Monday to Friday from 9.20am to 12.20pm. The service is located on the first floor in Tyrellstown Community Centre. The service includes two care rooms and has access to an outdoor play space on the grounds of the local primary school. The larger care room has sanitary accommodation off the room, and the smaller care room uses designated sanitary accommodation on the corridor.

Staffing

The registered provider currently employs five staff to work in the service including the designated and deputy persons in charge and three early year's professionals who are employed under the access and inclusion model (AIM). On the day of the inspection all five staff were present and worked directly with the children. The registered provider and service operations manager attended the service on the day of the inspection.

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.

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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 registered provider, service operations manager, 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,*

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(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named persons to deputise if required.
 - (b) A designated person in charge was available on the premises on the day of inspection for the operating hours of the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a review a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that five new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. All five of these staff members work directly with the children and full files were reviewed. The registered provider had completed the following checks:
- (a) Nine written and validated references were available from past employers.
 - (b) One written and validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 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 one staff member 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 all five 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.

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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. Five staff were allocated to work directly with 25 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-*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) (b) The following practices were observed in place to support the children attending:
- On arrival to the premises the atmosphere was calm and pleasant, this continued throughout the inspection. Staff used low tones and child friendly language when engaging with the children.
 - Children were prompted and encouraged by staff in self-care practices such as hand washing and toileting.
 - Staff used clear guidance to support children through transitions and used the strategy of “sticky wall” to guide children to the outdoor area on the ground floor.
 - Children were appropriately dressed for play in the outdoor area and staff assisted with coats as necessary.
 - During time in the outdoor area a staff member remained positioned by the slide to assist children in their play and safe use of equipment.

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- The staff ensured children were given ample time to enjoy their lunch and helped to open lunch items as needed. The staff joined the children at their tables during mealtime and engaged with them in conversation.
- Staff ensured a snack was provided for a child who did not bring lunch on the day of inspection.

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:

1. Furniture, toys and equipment were observed maintained in good condition and suitable for use.
- No trailing flexes were observed and blind cords were secured.
 - An ambient room temperature between 18-22°C was maintained in the care rooms while children played.
 - Care rooms were located on the first floor, and window restrictors were observed in place.
 - Staff were observed to conduct a head count to ensure all children were present before entering the outdoor play area.

Infection Control:

- Children's lunch from home was observed to be appropriately refrigerated.
- The tables were disinfected following lunchtime.
- Windows were open allowing fresh air to circulate.
- A record of cleaning schedules was maintained and completed up to date.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff confirmed no child in attendance required emergency medication.

Fire Safety:

- 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:

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1. The primary mechanism for securing the active cubs 1 care room door was not working. The second mechanism in place was at a height in reach of children. This posed a potential safety risk.

Infection Control:

2. Despite a risk assessment being documented on the day of inspection an infection control hazard was present in the outdoor area where children were playing. It is acknowledged this was promptly removed once brought to staffs' attention by the inspector.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The defective magnet locking mechanism was reported to the community centre. The mechanism now works correctly. A review of all locking mechanisms was carried out to ensure they are all working correctly.

Infection Control:

2. The infection control hazard was immediately removed when brought to the educator's attention. Children no longer use the garden that was observed on the day of inspection and now use the playground in the school grounds. Educators will remain vigilant for infection control hazards at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted have been reviewed by the inspector. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed. The new enclosed outdoor area on the grounds of the premises referenced under point 2 will be reviewed on next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

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(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.

(2) The registered provider ensured that

(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was in a visible and accessible location out of reach of children.

(b) The first aid box was readily available in the event it was required.