

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL333		
Name of Service:	Daisybelle T/A Treehouse Childcare		
Address of Service:	Ballisk Court, Donabate, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	K36 FF62		
Name of Registered Provider:	Aileen O'Reilly		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	26/08/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM 37
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6		
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & Y Kelly		
Title:	Early Years Inspectors		
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.		

Description of service

Daisybelle T/A Treehouse Childcare is one of two privately owned early years services which the registered provider operates in the greater Dublin area. The service provides full day, part time and sessional preschool care and education to children aged 1 to 6 years operating from a two-story purpose-built premises and is registered to operate from 7:30am to 6:15pm. There are 4 care rooms in the service namely the Toddler Room, ECCE room 1 and ECCE room 2 which are located on the ground floor of the service and the Preschool room is located on the first floor. There are 2 designated sleep rooms in the service, one located directly off the Toddler room, and one located alongside the Preschool room. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme each morning from 9.00am to 12midday for 38 weeks each year.

Staffing

There are 14 staff currently employed in this service including the services' operations manager. Twelve staff members work directly with the children on a daily basis including the service manager who provided support throughout the service as required. A chef is employed in the service. A staff member from the company's other service was present in the service and provided support across all the care rooms on the day of inspection. The registered provider was not present in the service during the inspection and is not based in this 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 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 9, 11, 16,19,22,23, 25, 26 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 record in relation to pre-school service.

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 inspectors wish 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) The service had a designated person in charge and named persons to deputise in their absence.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the morning of the inspection.

(c) A management structure was in place, which was clearly identifiable through review of the staff roster, a staff display board and through discussion with the staff team.

(2) The files for 15 staff members were reviewed including the services' operations manager.

(a) Eighteen written and appropriately validated references were available from a past employer.

- (b) Twelve written and appropriately validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 15 adults whose files were reviewed. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all employed staff.
- (d) International police vetting was available as required for 12 adults who had lived outside the State as adults for more than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The 14 staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service including the services operation manager and the service manager held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent

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.*
- (2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*
- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.
- (2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at the service and remained so throughout the inspection.
- The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:
- In the Toddler room there were 7 children aged 1 year to 1 year 5 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

- In the Preschool room there were 8 children aged 1 year 7 months to 2 years 3 months being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the ECCE room 1 there were 10 children aged 1 year 11 months to 2 years 11 months being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the ECCE room 2 there were 19 children aged 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 1 staff member.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1)(h) The children's daily attendance was observed to be recorded accurately throughout all the care rooms in the service.

(l) An up-to-date weekly staff roster was available, and staff sign in records were maintained on a daily basis.

(k) A record was maintained in writing of accidents, injuries and incidents involving children in the service. Sixteen of these records were sampled, compiled between 12/08/2024 and 01/08/2025, and each record was found to be clear and legible, and included parental signatures to document that they had been informed and were aware of the relevant incidents that had occurred.

Non-Compliance Information

(j) Eleven medication administration records were reviewed which had been compiled between 06/12/2024 and 20/08/2024. There were no parental signatures obtained on the forms following the administration of medication to confirm that parents were aware that their children had medication administered whilst in attendance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(j) The medication form has been amended.

Preventive Action

A column was added for Parent signature.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of updated medication administration form.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service has been reviewed and accepted.

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 observations are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

Basic needs:

- During the inspection the staff members were observed to be caring, kind and attentive in their interactions with the children and demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences. For example, two children in the Toddler room were new to the service, attending for their respective first and second times on the day of the inspection. The staff members were observed providing extra comforting and attention to the children using warm and gentle touch and tones in their efforts to engage and support the children and following the children's lead as they explored the environment, to very good effect.
- There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service and healthy meals and snacks were provided for the children by the onsite chef at regular intervals throughout the day. Mealtimes were observed to be a pleasant unhurried experience with children given plenty of time to enjoy their meals. In the ECCE room 1

and the ECCE room 2 the children were observed to serve themselves their own meals and snacks from serving plates and bowls which they did with enthusiasm and took additional portions of food as they chose. Staff members were observed sitting with the children engaging them in conversation whilst encouraging them to eat. The staff members in the Toddler room sat in front of the children who required assistance with eating warmly engaging with the children at their eye level. Throughout the care rooms the children's water bottles were accessible to them on low level shelving for them to take as desired throughout the day.

- The staff members in the Toddler room stated that the children in this care room were facilitated to sleep in cots when their needs dictated, in keeping with their home routine when appropriate. During the inspection these children did not show signs of tiredness or require sleep until after dinner. Children in the Preschool Room and the ECCE room 1 who still availed of a day-time nap were facilitated to sleep at the service's designated sleep time after dinner. Rest areas were provided in the care rooms including soft mats, cushions and baskets of blankets for the children to use as they chose located alongside the area.
- The children's personal care needs were attended to promptly. Nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as needed. The staff members used the opportunity to engage with and chat to the children. The children who were toilet trained used the toilet independently with discreet supervision. Bibs were placed on younger children before eating with children's hands and faces cleaned after eating.
- The staff members approached children's behaviour in a supportive manner, calmly distracting or re-directing the children and using problem-solving techniques to good effect before any minor issues escalated.
- Outdoor play was incorporated into the daily routine and the children from all the care rooms in the service spent time in the garden on both the morning and afternoon of inspection.

Supporting relationships around children:

- There was a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the service, parents and children were observed being greeted in a friendly way on their arrival to the service and staff members took the opportunity to provide feedback to parents and guardians on the children's day in the service when children were collected. Throughout the care rooms parents can access information regarding the children's feeding, nappy changes, activities, general wellbeing and sleep which is maintained for the children on a mobile application which parents can access at any time.

- Throughout the care rooms the inspectors observed the staff members initiating conversations with the children, responding meaningfully to their verbal and non-verbal cues and providing regular praise and encouragement using gentle tones of voice. The staff members spoke positively and warmly to and about the children during the inspection.
- The staff members were observed working collaboratively to support children’s play and learning. Regular informative interactions were heard taking place between the staff members when updating each other on the children’s needs and progress, and when coordinating the implementation of activities. Appropriate hand over regarding the children’s needs and preferences was shared with staff when they were relieving staff members for breaks.

Physical and material environment

- The play materials and equipment provided in all four care rooms were suitable for the children’s ages and stage of development. Materials were accessible on low-level shelving units which facilitated children’s independent choice and play. The children were observed to navigate their play environment with ease and familiarity.
- Throughout the care rooms the children had access to arts and crafts materials, trays of sensory materials including dried foods and sand in addition to a large sandpit in the outdoor play area all of which enhanced the children’s opportunity for sensory play.
- The Toddler room provided clear floor space for children to sit, crawl and walk. Push-along toys and stable props were available to support the children to engage in physical and gross motor activity through self-initiated movement. The well-developed areas of interest were easily accessible to the children and included a home area, a variety of musical instruments, construction resources, transport toys, stacking toys and dress up materials.
- The Preschool room, ECCE room 1 and ECCE room 2 were laid out in defined interest areas and were well-resourced with equipment and play materials including real, wooden and sensory materials, art and crafts materials, construction zones, shop areas, home corners, and reading and relaxation areas which supported all areas of development. There was a wide range of real, natural, recycled and open-ended materials in the service including cardboard boxes, logs, bottles and cartons.
- An ample supply of books was provided in the care rooms and the children’s language development was facilitated in each room through conversation, storytelling and singing.

- The outdoor area to the rear of the service has recently been refurbished. The area was surfaced with artificial grass. The area provided the children with the opportunity for movement and running in addition to ride on and push along toys. A well-resourced home area was available with a play kitchen and a variety of play resources; construction blocks were available along with a large sandpit. Wall mounted blackboards were provided for the children to draw on and a low-level wooden couch with cushions enabled the children to sit and chat with their friends as they chose.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service provides all snacks and meals to the children attending on a full day care. All snacks and meals are prepared on site by the chef, a 2 -week menu indicating that a varied and nutritional choice of food is available in the service was on display in the service. Dietary requirements specified by the parents were accommodated, as stated on the menu, and observed in practice during the inspection. The food available on the day of inspection reflected the menu provided and was in keeping with the service’s healthy eating policy.

Breakfast of cereal and milk or toast with butter was available to the children who require breakfast up until 9am.

A selection of fresh fruit including banana, chopped apples and orange slices were provided to the children at 10am.

Chicken curry and rice was served for dinner from 11:40 am in the Toddler room and Preschool room and from 12 midday in the ECCE room 1 and ECCE room 2.

Homemade beef kebabs in wraps were served for tea from 3pm.

The children attending the Toddler room who required formula brought their milk with them from home which was stored in the fridge until required.

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 front door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The outdoor play area was fully enclosed and secure which reduced the risk of children exiting unsupervised and restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the outdoor space and premises.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children at all times during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- The children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating, after using the toilet, after nappy changing and following messy play and outdoor play.
- Appropriate disposable gloves and aprons were available and observed being worn for each individual nappy change. The services nappy changing policy was observed being implemented when children were having their nappies changed during the inspection.
- Pedal operated lidded nappy bins were provided for the disposal of nappies which reduced the risk of cross-infection.
- The premises, play equipment and materials were in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Up to date documented cleaning schedules were on display in the service.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored out of the reach of children. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The inspectors observed that 10-minute sleep check observations noting each child's colour, position and breathing pattern were being performed and documented on all sleeping children.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. Documentary evidence was not available to confirm that fire drills were conducted monthly in the service. The records reviewed documented that fire drills were conducted on the following dates in 2025, 29/01/25, 28/02/2025, 26/03/2025 and the 26/06/2025. Fire drills must be conducted on a monthly basis to ensure that both staff and children are familiar with the services evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Fire Safety:

1. Fire Drill will be conducted monthly, and a record will be kept on file.

Preventive Action

1. Monthly record will be kept appropriately.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted.

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) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for 7 staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster.

(2)(a)(b) The first aid boxes available in the service were suitably equipped and stored in conspicuous locations on the premises and these were available for the children in attendance, in the event of an emergency.

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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Based on the records maintained and as reported by staff members, fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill for the whole service took place on 26/06/2025.

(b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced in December 2024 and the smoke detection system was certified as being serviced on the 13/05/2025.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in 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 had insurance cover in place for 60 children attending the service on a full day care basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 31/08/2025.