

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL336
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Name of Service:	Tyrrelstown Little Stars @ TETNS
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Address of Service:	Hollywoodrath Avenue, Hollystown, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ewa Hetnal
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	06/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM	N/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive Airside Business Park Swords Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	M. McDonnell
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

Tyrrelstown Little Stars @ TETNS is a privately owned service recently relocated to a ground floor room in an educate together school based in Dublin on a temporary basis. The service is registered to provide sessional care to children aged 2-6 years old from 9.00am to 12.00pm. The service provides Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). The sanitary facilities are accessible in the school. There is an access to an outdoor area at the side of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. The registered provider employs four staff members to work in the service, and this includes three staff members who work directly with the pre-school children and a service manager.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding

Health, Safety and Welfare of a child, Regulation 25 First Aid, Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures, Regulation 27 Supervision and Regulation 28 Insurance.

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 service 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,
- (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 registered provider had a designated person in charge of the service, and a there was a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the person in charge, and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation the designated person in charge or the named person in charge were on the premises.

(c) On discussion with staff members there was a clearly defined person and deputy person in charge to ensure lines of accountability.

(2) The recruitment files of the registered provider and four staff members were reviewed.

(a)(b) The registered provider had a written reference available for themselves, and eight written and validated references were available for the four staff members.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure dated within the last three years was available for all staff members, and the registered provider.

(d) A review of documentation demonstrated that either international police vetting was not required or was available in English for three staff members.

(4) There was evidence that the four staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications 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.

(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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) On the inspectors' unannounced arrival, the adult child ratio was observed to be correct and remained so throughout the inspection. There were three staff members and 18 children aged between 2 years 11 months old to 4 years 9 months old.

A service manager arrived during the inspection and attended feedback.

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

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
- (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

Supporting relationships around children

The interactions between the staff and children were kind and caring, with gentle words of encouragement and soft tones used with the children. Children were observed moving to different activities of their choice and were encouraged to do so by staff members. Whilst sensory play was readily available the staff members also did a painting and creative activity that was reflective of the autumn theme. The children and staff informed the inspector that they had brought in leaves from home. The children used these to make hedgehogs and paint a hibernation area, which was a three-dimensional structure that the children could paint.

Basic Needs

Water was accessible to the children within their room. Children were provided with meals from the home and staff members sat with children whilst they ate and chatted with them about their interests and families. Children used the toilet independently after staff had taken them to the sanitary accommodation area.

Physical and material environment

All the activities available and equipment was easily accessible to the children in labelled or clear plastic containers stored at a low level. The children had access to defined interest areas that included a variety of real-life items, for example in the home corner the children had mirrors, with real bottles, phones and keyboards. A sensory tray with lentils and toys was available throughout the session and children had access to a cosy area with

a small couch and books. Children were observed taking out materials and toys on their own and then staff engaging in the play with them.

The children had access to an outdoor area at the side of the service. There was an enclosed paved and grass area. The staff members had a storage container, and children had access to small toys, balls and ride on toys.

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 service had a secure entrance to the service with a buzzer system in place. This prevented any unauthorised access to the service and exit from the service by children.
- Cleaning agents and medications were stored out of the reach of children.
- The service is currently located in an alternative location, however staff discussed with the inspector the radiators in the room following the last inspection. There were temperature controls in the room and the staff members discussed how they could discuss any issues with the school.
- Following the previous inspection the inspector observed that the outdoor area was free of holes that could cause a trip risk and demonstrated the preventive actions were in place.
- Children lunches, from home, were stored in the fridge available in the room and taken out immediately prior to children eating.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

The water available to the children was not warm to support effective infection control. The inspector noted that the temperature of the water in the care room and sanitary facilities was cold to the touch and did not create a lather when used with soap. The service manager attempted to fix the water in the care room at the conclusion of the inspection; however this did not increase the temperature of the water.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection control:

The registered provider stated that the water temperature was reported to school and temperature has been adjusted to the correct temperature. As a preventive action the registered provider stated that daily checks will be done and recorded to ensure correct temperature is maintained.

Supporting documentation submitted

A photograph of appropriate water temperature and recording sheet

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider in their corrective and preventive action plan, have addressed the non-compliance identified on 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 registered provider ensured that a person trained in a First Aid Responder (FAR) course was available. There were three staff members with FAR and three were available on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) (b) The first aid equipment was available at the sink area which was conspicuous and easily accessible to staff members. The first aid equipment available provided adequate resources in the event of a first aid 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 of the most recent fire drill on 13 October 2025, was available for review. The service had maintained a record of monthly fire drills.
- (b) The maintenance records for the fire extinguishers demonstrated they were last serviced on 4 July 2025 and the fire alarms on the 29 May 2025.
- (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed staff supervising children primarily by sight throughout the period of inspection. The layout of the room supported staff in being able to maintain sight of the children. Staff were observed responding in a timely manner to small behavioural management incidents in relation to sharing, whilst other staff members engaged in children’s play.

The sanitary facilities were located away from the care room along a corridor. As well as taking all children to the toilet, children were taken as required. Staff accompanied them and were observed walking to and from the sanitary facilities in a calm manner.

The staff members demonstrated appropriate supervision when taking the children outside. Children were encouraged to line up at the room door once they had put on their coats. They then walked from the classroom to the door to the garden area and a check was completed. Including a headcount before the children went out to play. The staff members located themselves in various areas of the outdoor area and were observed to be knowledgeable of where the children were.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was appropriately insured for 22 children from 28 March 2025 to 27 March 2026.