

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY132
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Name of Service:	Little Angels Daycare
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Address of Service:	Costa Na Mara, Oranmore, Co. Galway.
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Eircode:	H91 T29V
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fiona Kelly and Helen O'Flynn.
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/02/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	60
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan and F. Duffy.
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Title:	Early Years Inspector and Inspection Registration Manager.
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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

This service is in the village of Oranmore, Co. Galway. The service operating hours are 07.30 to 18:00, from Monday to Friday and the age range of children catered for is 0 to 6 years of age. The service caters for full day-care and part-time care. The Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes operate from 09:00 to 12:00.

This ground floor premises has a total of four playrooms, there are two designated sleep rooms, one opposite the Baby Caterpillar room for babies and one adjacent to the Bumblebees room for children aged one to two years of age. The service has a designated kitchen where food is prepared and cooked. To the rear of the premises children have access to a soft surface outdoor area with various interest areas.

Staffing

The service employs fourteen adults and the two registered providers do not work in the service. On the day the person in charge and thirteen adults worked directly with the children. There were also one of the registered providers carrying out administration duties and an adult who prepared, cooked and serve food.

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 and 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, 19, 23, 25 and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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 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

(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*

(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 designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required during the inspection.
- (b) The person in charge and the deputy manager were available on the premises during the operation of the service.
- (2) All sixteen adult files were reviewed and were available for the registered providers and adults employed by the service. These were reviewed and the following was noted:
- (a) Twenty-five of the required thirty-two written references with evidence of verification were available from past employers.
- (b) Seven of the required thirty-two written references with evidence of verification were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available in respect all sixteen adults employed by the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available in respect of five adults who lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.
- (4) Twelve adults working directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from Level 5 to 8 or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(4) Two adults working directly with the children did not have evidence of an Early Childhood Care and Education qualification to a minimum Level 5 or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(4)
The registered responded to say that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Both staff without Level 5 qualifications were now working in school aged services and one adult was no longer on the roster as she was on student placement. Ensure all staff qualifications are recognised prior to starting work. Ensure all work placement staff are not included in adult/child ratios to work with children.

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider submitted a roster of staff who work in the service and both staff have been allocated to school aged care.

Summary Comment

The early years inspector has reviewed the evidence submitted and has deemed it has met the requirements of this part of the Regulation 9 (4).

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) Documentary evidence indicated that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children. At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. On the morning there were sixty pre-school children present being cared for by thirteen adults and in the afternoon, there were sixty pre-school children present being cared for by twelve adults.

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

(19)(1)(a)

Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service, children's cultural and dietary requirements were met.
- Nutritious meals and snacks were served at regular times. The main hot meal of the day was chicken curry with rice and an alternative was available. Children's snacks were observed in the playrooms and consisted of fruit, yogurts, sandwiches, cheese and milk or water.
- A water station was available in the playrooms for children to help themselves as required.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- Perishable items were stored in the fridge belonging to children for snack times.
- The staff encouraged and supported the children to be independent by letting them take the lead in activities, dressing themselves for outdoor play, feeding themselves where appropriate and at toileting.
- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development in the playrooms.
- The children had unrestricted access to the toilet and were either independent at toileting or supported by adults as required.
- Thirty children were in nappies and nappies were changed by adults when required.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills. Children were observed washing hands after toileting, outdoor play, before snack time and after nappy changing.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.
- A key person was assigned for each child to support their development and give feedback to parents and guardians in relation to their care and milestones. Feedback was given on their knowledge and

observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.

- Adults listened to the voice of the child as they communicated their needs, thoughts, and experiences both verbally and non-verbally, by reading children's cues, gestures, and body language.
- Adults documented children's learning and development through the learning story method and a portfolio of children's learning and activities was maintained in the junior and senior preschool rooms.
- Adults encouraged children to think critically, ask questions and respond to them in a way that promoted sustained shared thinking. This was observed at circle time, tabletop activities and at artwork.
- Adults used a soft tone of voice, the child's individual name, and were observed getting down to their level and making eye contact.
- Children had the opportunity to partake in small and large group activities and play, leading to increased social awareness, co-operation, collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of belonging,
- Adults were observed to manage children's minor behavioural or disagreements in a positive way throughout the 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:

- The entrance door into the pre-school was secured to prevent unauthorised access by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- The external outdoor play area was secured by a high wall and gates so that unauthorised persons could not access or enter the area, or children could not exit unsupervised.
- All cleaning agents and equipment were inaccessible and out of children's reach.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- Blinds cords were secured by fasteners and thereby inaccessible to a pre-school child.
- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.

Infection Control:

- There were three designated nappy changing units with clean intact changing mats and a leak proof self-sealing pedal bin for the disposal of nappies.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled. The children's barrier creams were clearly individually labelled within their designated nappy changing area.
- Warm water, liquid soap and paper towel were available for effective hand washing.
- The playrooms were observed to be kept adequately ventilated with the windows left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.

Administration of Medication:

- Parental consent was sought and available for prescription and non-prescription medications given to the children in attendance.
- The adults advised that they had a system for regularly checking expiry dates.
- Medication for children attending the service was within expiry date and stored as per manufacturer's instructions.
- Parents and guardians completed a medication consent form.
- The correct method of recording medication administered was in line with best practice and the service policy.
- Medication was stored in line with manufacturer's instructions and out of reach of the children.

Safe Sleep:

- There were 13 cots in total available in the 2 designated sleep rooms for children under 2 years of age and 23 sleep mats and sleep beds were available for children over the age of 2 years of age.
- Physical sleep checks were recorded every ten minutes in line with the service policy and best practice.

Fire Safety:

- The fire exit doors and passageways were clear from obstruction.
- The fire exit routes, and fire assembly points were readily identified with clear and illuminated signage.

Outing:

- The service did not conduct outings.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. It was observed that soothers were not stored in individually labelled containers which may pose as a risk of cross infection for a preschool child.

- The correct procedure was not observed at nappy changing. Two out of the four adults left the nappy changing area after nappy changing and washed the children's hands in the adjacent sanitary area. There was a designated sink available in the nappy changing area. This may pose as a risk of cross infection for a preschool child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider responded to say:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

- Soothers are now stored in individual containers.
- The correct procedure for hand washing is now in place during nappy changing.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

- Photographic evidence was submitted of individually labelled sealed containers to store soothers.
- Documented evidence of the revised nappy changing procedure including hand-washing in the nappy changing area.

Summary Comment

The early years inspector has reviewed the evidence submitted and has deemed it has met the requirements of this part of the Regulation 23.

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

- Two adults had a record of up to date First Aid Response (FAR) training and were rostered to be available on the premises on the day. Certificates available evidenced that a total of six adults had in date First Aid Response (FAR) training.

- (2)(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in all the playrooms.
- (b) First aid boxes were available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency 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.*
- (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) Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed by the service. The last fire drill took place on the 22 January 2025.
- (b) Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the fire-fighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service date recorded for the fire-fighting equipment was 02 February 2025 and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 13 February 2025.
- (4) Fire action notices were displayed demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.

Non-Compliance Information

29 (e) In the children's sanitary area in the main building there were four toilets and three wash hand basins. A fourth wash hand basin was required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response that:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A new double sink has been installed to meet the needs for the number of children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted of the new sink that was fitted in the sanitary area.

Summary Comment

The early years inspector has reviewed the evidence submitted and has deemed it has met the requirements of this part of the Regulation 29(e).