

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, Helen O'Flynn
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	21/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	59	PM	59
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Co. Galway.
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Meehan.
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Title:	Early Years Inspector.
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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).

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Description of service

This service is in the village of Oranmore, Co Galway. 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 old. 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. The full day-care and part-time care service operates from 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 Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) and sessional pre-school care programmes operate from 09:00 to 12:00.

Staffing

The service employs 12 adults working with children and the 2 registered providers who do not work in the service with children. On the day the manager who was the person in charge and 10 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 served 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

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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.

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.

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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.
- (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.
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The manager was the person in charge and a deputy manager was available to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The roster indicated that there was a designated person in charge and a deputy in charge while the pre-school children were on the premises.
- (2) Since the last inspection on the 13/02/2025 there were 2 new adults employed in the service and 6 adults required renewal of garda vetting within the 3 years requirements these files were reviewed:
- (a) Three of the required four written and validated references were from past employers.
 - (b) The remaining one written and validated reference was from a source other than a past employer.

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- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the two new adults and the six adults that required renewal of garda vetting within the three-year requirement. 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 for two new adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4) There was evidence that two new adults working directly with the children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to a level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to be equivalent. The remaining three adults did not require childcare qualifications as two were students and the other adult worked in the kitchen.
- (7)(a) Documentation was available to evidence that induction of the two new staff had taken place in line with the service policy.

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children on the day.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to. There were 11 adults working directly with 59 children in the morning and 11 adults working with 59 children in the afternoon. There were also two students rostered and in the playrooms during the inspection.
- (8)(a) Documentary evidence on the roster indicated that at least two adults were on the premises when the pre-school was operating.

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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

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view. The snacks and hot meal provided were healthy and nutritious. The hot meal of the day was chicken, waffles and vegetables.
- Perishable items that were belonging to preschool children were stored in the service fridge.
- Cutlery and plates were used during children's snack times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- Highchairs with harnesses were provided for younger children.
- Children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- Younger children in nappies had them changed regularly and in a caring manner by the adults. Adults were observed picking up on childrens toileting cues throughout the day.
- The children's self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g. to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after outdoor play, after using a tissue and after messy play.
- In the playrooms the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch in a designated cosy area and the service also had a sensory room where children could take time out and relax.
- Stackable beds (21 in total) and clean linen were available for sleep when the playroom was converted into a sleep room during the day.

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- There were 2 designated sleep rooms with 12 standard cots with appropriate clean linen. Physical sleep checks were carried out on all sleeping children every 10 minutes. Each child that slept had an individual sleep plan.

Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians, conduct observations to support each child's developmental needs.
- Each child had a learning journal showing their art and craft work for the year.
- The programme of care was flexible and guided by the children's choices. Children were supported by the staff during periods of individual and group-based activities. The staff sensitively supervised and intervened when necessary.
- The emerging interests were recorded on a board to inform the short-term planning and emerging interests of children.
- Transitions between activities were well planned by adults and were carried out in a calm and relaxed environment. Good communication between adults in planning activities was observed.
- The adults working with children work in partnership with parents to enhance each individual child's learning experience while attending the service.
- The service programme of activity and curriculum which was in place supported the individual needs of each child in line with their age and stage of development. The curriculum was based on models of best practice in early childhood education.
- The activities observed were both adult and child led, both indoors and outdoors with an emphasis of the children's emerging interests, wellbeing and development.
- The themes of the week were 'Birds, Animals and Nature'.
- The Ladybird playroom had put together a transition book for children preparing to leave the service and attend primary school. The book had various topics to support children's understanding and concerns about going to primary school.
- Children were observed at mealtimes, sleep, circle time, outdoor play, arts & crafts, singing and preparing for graduation.

- (3) The inspector did not witness or hear any practices, throughout the period of inspection, which were disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally, physically harmful or neglectful in respect of

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the early years children attending the service. Adults were observed to be kind and caring in their interactions with children. Communication and interactions between adults and children were conducted in a positive, sensitive and caring manner.

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

Infection Control:

- Perishable items from children's lunch boxes were stored in each playroom fridge.
- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels. Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing. The temperature was maintained at 34.5°C.
- The children were observed washing their hands before eating their morning snack, before dinner, after toileting and after outdoor play. Hand washing was supervised by the staff.
- Airtight, pedal operated, sealable bins were available for the disposal of used nappies in the nappy changing areas. Disposable aprons and gloves were available.
- Nappy changing was observed to be carried out in line with best practice and in line with the service policy by adults.
- The children's belongings for nappy changing were individually labelled and in designated storage containers.
- Children's soothers were sterilised in accordance with best practice guidance.
- Waterproof mattresses were fitted and used in all the cots in the designated playroom.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposable paper towels and disinfectant spray by adults.

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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 a person trained in first aid responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Three adults had first aid responder with an in-date certificate.
- (2)(a) The first aid boxes were easily accessible and stored in conspicuous positions in the office and playrooms.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped with all contents within expiry dates and were available while the children were attending the pre-school service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

In date insurance was available for 64 preschool children and had a valid certificate until the 27 March 2027.