

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY279		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Treasure Island Creche: 1		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Doughiska Road, Merlin Park, Co. Galway		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 FW25		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aideen Cruise		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/04/2025		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	34	PM 35
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E. Friel		
<b>Title:</b>	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

### Description of service

Treasure Island Creche:1 offers early years care and education to children on a full time, part-time and sessional basis. While registered to accommodate children from 0 to 6 years of age the service currently facilitates children from 6 months to 6 years. Opening hours are from 07:30 until 18:00, 51 weeks of the year. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme operates within these hours from 9:00 until 12:00 and is available for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is available in the afternoon from 13:30 until 18:00. The secure outdoor play areas are located at the rear of the service and car parking is available at the front of the building.

The service is located in Doughiska, an urban area of Galway city. It operates from a single storey premises. Five of the care rooms are located within the main building namely; Baby, Tweenies, Toddler, Playschool and Pre-school. The ECCE/School age aspect of the service operates from a modular unit situated at the rear of the building. There is an office, kitchen, staff room, adult and children's toilets, two nappy changing rooms and two dedicated sleep rooms - Baby and Tweenies. In addition, the Playschool and Toddler rooms were both in use as sleep rooms after lunch.

### Staffing

There are 16 adults employed by the service, 14 of whom were working on the day of inspection, including the cook and 2 school age care staff. In addition, the registered provider made a brief visit.

### 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 regulations;

Regulation 9 - Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1) (2) (a) and (b)

Regulation 26 - Fire safety Measures (1) (a) (b), (2) (c) and (4)

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 registered provider, person in charge, deputy, 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 ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise as required.
- (b) The staff records indicated that either the designated person in charge, or named person were available while the early years children were present.
- (c) The management structure was detailed on the office door of the service.

(2) Recruitment files for 16 adults and the registered provider were reviewed;

- (a) Twenty nine of the 34 required validated references were from past employers.
  - (b) The remaining 5 of 34 required validated references were from sources other than previous employers.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for all 17 adults. However, the Service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.
  - (d) Overseas Police vetting was on file for seven adults who had lived outside of Ireland for six consecutive months or longer as adults.
- (4) There was evidence that 15 adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed to be equivalent. In addition, one adult who did not have the required qualification had a letter of eligibility to practice from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. The cook did not require a childcare qualification.

## 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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(2) The adult/child ratios were met.

There were 9 adults working directly with 34 children in the morning and 12 adults working directly with 35 children in the afternoon.

(8)

(a) The staff roster indicated that either the designated person in charge and or named persons were on the premises while the early years children were present.

### 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

##### Basic Needs:

- Snacks and hot meals were observed to be provided mainly by the service's on-site cook with children attending full day care being offered at least two meals and two snacks. The manager stated that some children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme bring in their own snacks.
- Menu plans presented to the inspector evidenced that there was a wide variety of healthy and nutritious food being served throughout the month. Additional food was observed to be offered to children who had individual dietary requirements at lunch time. All food served was observed to be age and stage appropriate with the main hot lunch consisting of stew, vegetables and potatoes.
- Water, which was easily accessible to the children, was observed to be available from individual water bottles in all care rooms, and in the outdoor play areas throughout the day.
- Children in each care room had access to age and stage appropriate cutlery and crockery when eating.
- Nappy changes in the Baby and Tweenies care rooms were observed being carried out on a regular basis, as and when required. Each child's dignity and privacy were observed to be respected with only one child being changed at a time. Staff were heard singing to the children, in line with the service's nappy changing procedure. Mirrored tiles were available for children to see themselves promoting self-awareness and self-identity.
- All care rooms had rest/quiet areas with suitable soft furnishings. The cosy rest area in the Pre-school care room was furnished with two sofas with a mat on the floor. Books were within easy access from nearby shelving.
- Staff members in the Baby and Tweenies care rooms were observed to be warm and caring in their interactions with the children. For example, staff were observed comforting children who were upset by picking them up and cuddling them and speaking to them gently while offering reassurance.
- The atmosphere during mealtimes in the Pre-school care room was noted to be relaxed with staff engaging in social interactions while assisting children mashing potatoes.

### Supporting Children's Relationships:

- Children's behaviour in the Tweenies care room was consistently managed in a positive manner by the staff member, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement. An example was a staff member discussing and demonstrating with two children the merits of turn taking and sharing when a child left down a ball momentarily and another child lifted the ball to play with it.
- A key-worker system was in place in the service with named staff members assigned the responsibility for maintaining relationships with a designated group of children and their parents. A staff member in the Baby care room stated that they document the holistic development of their key children which are recorded on the service tablet. These were furnished to the inspector to view and were noted to be linked to Aistear, the curriculum framework and Siolta, the quality framework.
- Folders belonging to each child, which had been put together by staff, were available for the inspector to view. These documented the children's individual interests and emergent curriculum throughout their time in the service. Examples included photographs of the children involved in activities, artwork and individual interests.
- Staff members in the Pre-school care room and staff of the Playschool care room, who were outdoors supervising children playing, were observed to work well as a team. They were heard, on several occasions, discussing the children's needs frequently throughout the day.
- A variety of communication methods were stated as being in use to communicate with parents/guardians including a software package on a digital device, where information regarding each child's eating, sleeping, toileting and activities carried out were sent in real time. This was observed in use by staff carrying out sleep checks during the day in the Baby, Tweenies, Playschool and Toddler care rooms. In addition, a staff member in the Baby care room had a notebook in which information was recorded daily to be shared with parents.
- Staff stated supervision took place every six months where items such as training needs were discussed and addressed. The inspector observed that evidence of supervision was available in the staff files.
- The service maintains relationships with the local community. On the day of inspection, the inspector observed a member of An Garda Síochána visit the service with their vehicle as part of the service's curriculum.

### Physical and Material Environment:

- The layout of the care rooms allowed staff to easily supervise the children as they moved from area to area.

- Each care room was laid out in clearly defined areas with materials and resources which enhanced the learning needs of all children across all developmental areas. Examples included soft mats on the floor in the Baby and Tweenies care room floors, where the children spent a large part of their day, along with age and stage appropriate vinyl soft play where the children had opportunities to practice climbing and crawling helping to develop their early gross motor skills.
- Age and stage appropriate tables and chairs were available where children were observed sitting comfortably participating in group and individual activities.
- Throughout each care room toys and resources were positioned to allow children choice and encourage independence. Children could move freely and explore each area.
- The walls of the care rooms were brightly decorated with photographs of the children involved in various activities, family and community photographs along with seasonal related artwork. Each child's birthday was identified with a theme. Each aspect was creatively displayed.
- Children from the Pre-school, Playschool and Toddler rooms were observed playing in the dedicated, secure, outdoor play areas. The areas were cordoned off to ensure the safety of the various age groups. Children had access to a wide range of developmentally appropriate equipment. Examples included the younger children accessing rockers and ride-ons while the older children were observed playing on a nest swing, and had access to scooters, bicycles and balance bikes. A covered area was available enabling the children to access outdoor play all year round.

### Programme of activities:

- Individual journals with continual observations of key children were noted to be documented on a digital application with staff in the care rooms stating that these are carried out monthly. Children's emergent curriculum was recorded and the staff members in the Baby and Tweenies care rooms stated that these observations informed the planning of the curriculum for the children in their care.
- Children's language development was observed to be supported and facilitated in the care rooms. Examples included songs and storytelling in the Pre-school care room including There are seven days in the week and staff reading stories. A staff member in the Baby care room was heard responding warmly to children's babbling and repeating back what each child was saying using a sing song voice and simplified language.
- Short-, medium- and long-term planning was documented and visible throughout the service.

## 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 main door was secured on arrival ensuring that unauthorised adults could not enter the premises.
- Both the kitchen and adult's toilet doors were secured with sliding bolts preventing entry by the children.
- Blind cords in the care rooms and in the sleep rooms were stored out of reach of the children. In addition, a cord in the Baby changing area was inaccessible.
- Cleaning agents in the nappy changing area were observed to be out of reach of the children, preventing accidents from occurring.
- The ground surfaces on the outdoor play areas were covered in safety matting helping to cushion falls and reduce the risk of injury.
- The oil tank in the outdoor area was cordoned off, preventing children from accessing the area.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured by high concrete walls and high hedges.
- Wooden supports in the outdoor area were covered in safety foam preventing children from injury should they bang into them.

##### Infection Control:

- Perishable food, including a bottle of baby formula, was observed to be stored in the fridge in the Baby care room, preventing the milk from spoiling.
- Steam sterilisers were in use for soothers in both the Baby and Tweenies care rooms, to prevent cross infection.
- Hygienic handwashing was observed. Adults and children had access to thermostatically controlled hot water, under 43°C, dispensing soap, dispensing paper towels and pedal operated bins for the disposal of paper towels.
- Children's individual belongings were stored in lidded boxes in the nappy changing area.
- Staff members in the Baby care room were observed carrying out nappy changing in line with the service's nappy changing policy. Staff were observed using single use aprons and disposable gloves for each nappy change and pedal operated, lined, lidded and sealed bins were available for the disposal of used nappies.

- The windows in the care room of the Tweenies care room were open promoting the circulation of fresh air.

### Administration of Medication:

- Temperature reducing medication was available in the event of an emergency. The expiry date was noted as 01/2027.

### Safe Sleep:

- Children in the Baby and Tweenies designated sleep rooms, under 24 months, were observed sleeping in cots.
- Stackable beds were in use for children from the Toddler and Playschool care rooms over 24 months.
- Physical sleep checks, carried out every ten minutes, were observed to be recorded on a digital device for all four sleep rooms in operation.
- All cots and stackable beds were placed at least 50 centimetres apart.
- The sleep room temperatures recorded for children over 12 months were within the required range of 18°-22°C.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire extinguishers were secured by brackets on the wall outside the Pre-school care rooms.
- The fire assembly point was visible in the outdoor play area.
- Fire exit doors, fitted with thumb twist cylinders, were unobstructed enabling the quick evacuation of the children and adults in the event of an emergency.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for 17 adults. However, one vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12. Renewal of Garda vetting'.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. A Garda vetting disclosure is now on file for one adult for whom re-vetting was required. Management will ensure that all vetting is completed within the three-year period in the future.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. A copy of the Garda vetting disclosure, for the employee for whom it was required, was received in the office of the inspectorate.

### Summary Comment

The action taken by the registered provider has 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) Certificates were available to evidence that three adults had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training. The staff roster confirmed that a person trained in first aid was available while the early years children were present in the service.

(2) (a) (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes, which were easily accessible to the adults, in the care rooms, were available to the adults while the early years children were present 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) Written records of monthly fire drills were available in the service. The last fire drill recorded was dated 24 March 2025, with previous dates including 7 February 2025 and 14 January 2025.
  - (b) Written records were available recording the number, type and maintenance records of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The firefighting equipment and smoke alarm certificates were both dated April 2025.
- (2)
- (c) All records referred to in paragraph (1) were available to review by the inspector.
- (4) The fire drill routines were located on the wall of the care rooms and at the entrance door.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was insured. The certificate stated that the service was insured for 70 full day children and the expiry date was recorded as 27 March 2026.