

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY280		
Name of Service:	Treasure Island Creche: 2		
Address of Service:	An Fiodan, Coill Tíre, Doughiska, Merlin Park, Co. Galway		
Eircode:	H91 VF76		
Name of Registered Provider:	Aideen Cruise		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/05/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	38	PM 35
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.		
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel and S. Meehan		
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

Treasure Island Creche 2 is a private early years service established in 2011. Service provision includes full day care, part-time and sessional services. Business hours are from 07:30 until 18:00, Monday to Friday, 51 weeks of the year. While registered to accommodate children aged from 0-6 years of age, children currently attending are aged from 12 months to 6 years of age. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated in the morning between the hours of 09:00 until 12:00, school term times only.

The service is located in a residential estate in the urban area of Doughiska on the outskirts of Galway city. Upon entry there is a reception area, office and four care rooms- Tweenies, Toddlers, Playschool and Montessori. In addition, there is a staff room, kitchen, along with adult and children's sanitary areas and two nappy changing rooms. There is a designated sleep room for children from the Tweeny and Toddler care rooms, and the Playschool care room was in use as a sleep room after lunch.

Staffing

There were 12 adults present in the service, including the area manager, manager, a relief worker, an adult employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and a student. The registered provider does not work in the 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 general manager, manager, 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.

(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. A named person was also available, as required.
 - (b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and named person were on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
- (2) The roster indicated that there were 6 new adults in the service since the last inspection. However, only 4 of the 6 recruitment files were reviewed as 2 adults had transferred from a sister service and their recruitment files had recently been reviewed on 15/04/2025.
- (a) Eight of the required 8 references, 6 of which were validated, were available from past employers.
 - (b) There were no references from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults in the service. The inspector observed this was inclusive

of 3 garda vetting disclosures which had been renewed for staff members whose Garda vetting had expired, demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every 3 years.

(d) Overseas police vetting disclosures were available for 2 of 3 adults, who had lived outside the state for more than 6 consecutive months.

(4) Staff files viewed on the day indicated that the 4 adults had obtained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education, ranging from Level 5 to Level 8, on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a) (b) Two validations were missing in respect of 1 adult.

(d) One overseas police vetting disclosure was missing for an adult who had lived outside the state for more than 6 consecutive months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)

(a) (b) The 2 missing validations are now on file for the adult for whom they were required.

(d) The overseas vetting is now on file for the adult for whom it was required. In future all documentation will be on file prior to commencement of employment.

Supporting documentation submitted

The following documentation was received in the office of the inspectorate:

(2)

(a) (b) Two validations were received in the office of the inspectorate for one adult for whom they were missing.

(d) A copy of the overseas vetting disclosure was received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 (2) (a), (b) and (d).

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.*
- (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) There were an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children while they were on the premises.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were met in both the morning and afternoon in all care rooms. There were 10 adults and 1 student working directly with 38 children in the morning and 8 adults and 1 student working with 35 children in the afternoon.
- (8)(a) The sign in/sign out records of the staff indicated that the service operated with at least 2 adults while the early years children were present in the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;

(g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 pre-school children's records were reviewed. The following particulars of the 12 sampled records were found to be compliant with (1) (a) to (i) above.

(3)

(c) The children's pre-school records were reviewed by the inspectors on the premises on the day of inspection.

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:

- A 4-week menu plan was available on the notice board in the service. The food observed being served on the day was healthy and nutritious.
- Food and snacks were provided regularly throughout the day. Children were offered snacks in both the morning and the evening, with the morning snack served at 10:15 and the hot meal of the day; mashed potatoes, mince and carrots observed being served at 12:00 in the Montessori care room. In the afternoon garlic bread and cheese was available from 15:00 and for children staying later in the evening a further snack was available.
- Individual dietary requirements were catered for, and additional food was available for children who were hungry.

- The weather on the day of inspection was hot and sunny. Staff members were observed encouraging the children to take regular drinks from labelled bottles and cups throughout the day. Children on stackable beds in the Playschool sleep area were observed to have water within reach of each stackable bed with staff filling each bottle as required.
- A staff member in the Montessori room was observed bringing a basket of sun cream outdoors. In conversation, the staff member stated that sun cream was applied every two hours in line with the service sunscreen policy. Each child was observed wearing a sun hat and children were observed playing in covered overhead areas which provided shade in the outdoor area, out of the heat of the sun.
- Children from the Montessori care room were supervised while toileting with a staff member heard singing a song to remind children to wash their hands.
- Children's dignity and privacy was respected with each cubicle door kept closed while the children were using the facilities.
- Nappy changing was carried out as and when required and single use gloves and aprons were within easy reach in the nappy changing areas.
- In each of the care rooms the children had a suitable area to rest and sit quietly away from noisy activities. Children sitting in the rest area of the Montessori care room had access to two vinyl sofas and soft vinyl cushions to sit on. A selection of age and stage appropriate books were available for individual use.
- Children could move freely around the around care rooms with children in the Toddler care room provided with vinyl matting facilitating children learning to walk in a safe environment.
- A staff member in the Toddler care room was observed promoting children's positive behaviour toward each other when reminding a child to use gentle hands and not to push when sharing toys.

Supporting children's relationships:

- During indoor and outdoor activities staff were heard engaging and listening to the conversations of children using strategies to extend the children's thinking and learning including open questions, explaining and providing feedback.
- Staff in the Montessori care room stated that a key-person system was in place with named staff assigned responsibility for recording the children's observations. Examples of these were furnished to the inspector which detailed each child's individual progress in the service.

- Various methods of communicating with parents/guardians was stated by staff as being in use including verbally face to face at drop off and collection and an application on the tablet where messages were communicated regarding toileting, eating, sleep, accidents and incidents and medication.
- Meetings with staff regarding the curriculum were stated as happening weekly where the voice of the child was considered and staff ideas area recorded.
- Children's sense of responsibility was promoted in the Montessori care room with activities where each child was allocated a classroom job. These jobs were identified with each child's photograph and a picture of the job to be carried out.

Physical and material environment:

- The care rooms were laid out and arranged in clearly defined areas. A wide variety of resources and toys were available which offered opportunities to enhance the learning needs of the children across all developmental areas.
- Equipment and resources were stored on low-level shelving making them easily accessible while promoting choice for the children and encouraging independence.
- Wooden chairs and tables in use were observed to be age and stage appropriate for the children attending the service with the children's feet placed on the floor.
- A variety of materials were displayed on the walls of the care rooms including a visual timetable, calendars, alphabet and number posters, pictures of the children and displays of topics of current interest to the children.
- The outdoor play areas provided alternative changes of environments for the children with a range of developmentally appropriate equipment which was provided in the fully enclosed areas. Opportunities were provided for children to practice their gross motor skills of climbing, cycling, running and sliding. Imaginary play opportunities were available from mud kitchens, playhouses and a wooden pirate ship and sensory materials including sand and water were in use with children observed engaging and exploring the different textures and materials. A planting area with labelled plants was also visible.

Planning of Activities:

- Ongoing observations were documented, which helped create a complete, well-rounded picture of each individual child in the Montessori care room. These observations were noted to be linked to the national curriculum framework and Siolta the quality framework.

- Activities were child led and children from the Playschool care room had the opportunity to express their views, take the lead and exercise choice in their engagement in activities and in accessing play equipment throughout the day. An example included children observed spontaneously making a train track, with construction blocks, across the outdoor play area leading beyond the slide. Each child took a turn of balancing while walking on the track under the supervision of one of the adults from the care room.
- Children’s language development was supported in the service through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed throughout the inspection. Examples included a staff member sitting on the floor in the Toddler care room reading a story to the children. While staff members in the Montessori room sang enthusiastically practising graduation songs with the children including “Hello to my friends” and “Time to move your body”. An adult in the outdoor area was heard singing a counting song about fish to a child in the outdoor play area.
- The Montessori care room was noted to have a print rich environment with clearly organised materials which were labelled with photographs.
- The service promoted diversity and equality to promote inclusion with a display of languages welcoming children to the service and an inclusion reflections scrap book prepared by one of the staff in the Montessori care room which was accessible to the children to view.

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:

- An electronic keypad was in place in reception which prevented unauthorised adults from entering the care rooms or children leaving the service unsupervised.
- Low level windows were decorated to ensure children did not bang into them.
- Three blind cords in the Tweenies care room attached to window frames were secured with hooks which were inaccessible by the children.
- All highchairs were fitted with suitable harnesses ensuring children could not climb out of them and each chair had a footrest.
- All toys and play equipment indoors and outdoors appeared in good condition.

- Cables and flexes from fans in the Montessori and Playschool care rooms, and a camera in the Tweenies and Toddler sleep room, were stored out of reach of the children.
- Outdoor waste and general rubbish were stored in large bins behind a fenced off area in the outdoor area which was inaccessible to the children.
- Staff were observed supervising children one at a time on a slide in the outdoor area.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured with a high concrete wall, and the main gate was secured with a sliding bolt. Safety matting was observed on the ground helping to reduce the risk of injury should a child fall.

Infection Control:

- Tissues for personal hygiene were easily accessible to the children in the outdoor play area.
- Windows were open in the care rooms to facilitate the circulation of fresh air.
- Wash hand basins in use by the adults and children were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water ranging in temperature between 33.1°C and 41.5°C, dispensing soap, dispensing paper towel roll for drying hands and pedal operated bins for the disposal of waste.
- The nappy changing areas were fitted with changing mats both of which were clean and in good condition. The children's labelled nappies and creams were all located in individual baskets within arm reach and disposable adult gloves and aprons were available.
- Children's personal belongings were stored on shelving, off the floor area, in the Montessori care room.
- Individually labelled containers were available for children's soothers, and a steriliser was available for sterilising soothers after use.
- Cleaning records available in the Tweenies care room were observed to be completed and up to date, ensuring a clean and hygienic environment for the children to play.

Administration of Medication:

- Temperature reducing medications, stored in their original containers, were stored in the kitchen, which was inaccessible by the children. The expiry dates were recorded as 04/2027 and 05/2025.

Safe Sleep:

- As it was a warm day, (24°C) fans were on in the Tweenies /Toddler designated sleep room and in the Playschool care room to ensure the temperature of the rooms remained under 22°C, as required.
- Staff were observed removing layers of clothing and each child had access to water to stay hydrated, if required.

- The 7 cots in the Tweenies/Toddler designated sleep room and the 9 stackable beds in the Playschool care room were placed at least 50 centimetres apart.
- Two staff were present in the Playschool care room while the children were sleeping on the stackable beds.
- Blinds had been closed in the sleep rooms prior to the children going down to sleep to ensure the sleep rooms remained at the required temperature.

Fire Safety:

- The fire assembly point was visible at the back wall of the outdoor play area.
- Fire exit doors were unobstructed and operated with push bars and safety devices ensuring the safe evacuation of children and adults in the event of an emergency.
- In date fire extinguishers were secured with brackets to the walls in the service, out of reach of the children.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Cleaning agents and an aerosol container were accessible to the children in the Tweenies/Toddler changing area, posing a safety risk. They were stored in a caddy for cleaning materials on the nappy changing plinth.

Infection Control:

2. The pedal on the nappy bin in the nappy changing area was broken, posing a risk of cross contamination from the number of hands observed in contact with the lid throughout the day.

Safe Sleep:

3. Individual physical sleep checks in the Tweenies/Toddler designated sleep room were not carried out every 10 minutes in line with the service's safe sleep policy, posing a safety risk to the sleeping children. A review of the physical sleep records, recorded on a digital application, of 3 of the 6 children asleep in the Tweenies/Toddler designated sleep room, where children were aged between 12 -24 months, indicated gaps of 15, 16 and up to 24 minutes for each subsequent child on their individual sleep records in the time period from 12:28 until 12:55. In conversation, the adult carrying out the sleep checks stated they had left the sleep room to return a child who did not want to sleep to their care room. While there they had exchanged the tablet as they stated there were having difficulty signing into the digital application to record the sleep checks.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

(1) The shelf has been moved, and staff have been informed that the caddy and aerosols must be placed back on the shelf after use to ensure the safety of the children.

Infection Control:

(2) A new bin has been purchased for the nappy changing area to prevent the risk of cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

(3) There was a technical issue on the day with the recording device, a staff member was with the children and only left the sleep room to return waking children to their care room. A staff meeting was held by management and the importance of safe sleep was discussed. Paper sleep checks are now available in the sleep room in the event that there are any technical issues in the future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

(1) The statement from the registered provider has been accepted.

Infection Control:

(2) A copy of a receipt for two nappy bins was received in the office of the inspectorate.

Safe Sleep:

(3) A sample sleep template was received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances (1), (2), (3) identified under 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

- (1) Certificates were on file to evidence that four staff members were trained as First Aid Responders (FAR); the staff roster indicated that a staff member trained in FAR was available while the early years children were on the premises.
- (2)
- (a) The well stocked first aid boxes were stored within easy reach of the adults in the care rooms.
- (b) The first aid boxes were available at all times 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 the monthly fire drills that took place in the service were furnished to the inspector. The last date recorded was noted as 02 May 2025.
- (b) Written records were available of the servicing of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The firefighting certificate was dated 02 May 2025, and the smoke alarm certificate was dated 10 February 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The records referred to in paragraph (1) were available on the premises for review by the inspector.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed throughout the building.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service was insured. Written records were furnished to the inspector which included the following details;

- The name, address and contact details of the insurance company
- The name and address of the service
- The number of children for whom the service is insured: 70 Full Day Care
- The type of service: Sessional
- Expiry date: 27 March 2026

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 – Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.*

Compliance Information

(a) The building appeared of sound and stable structure.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. Vents in the nappy changing areas were observed to be dusty, and the mechanical ventilation unit was not operating when switched on, impeding the circulation of fresh air.
 2. A cushion cover on the adult chair in the Tweenies care room was heavily stained. In conversation, an adult in the care room stated that the cover was laundered regularly. However, on the day of the inspection it was found to be heavily stained.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (d)
- (1) A company have been contracted to clean the vents regularly. A meeting was organised with the cleaner and the cleaning of the vents has been added to the monthly template.

(2) The cushion cover was laundered. The cushions and mats will be checked weekly by the cleaner to ensure they are clean and hygienic.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d)

(1) and (2) The statements from the registered provider has been accepted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29

(d) (1) and (2).