

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY280
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Name of Service:	Treasure Island Creche: 2
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Address of Service:	An Fiodan, Coill Tire, Doughiska, Merlin Park, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 VP76
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aideen Cruise
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	22/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	33
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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, Co. Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel
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).

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 old, 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 time only.

The service is 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. The Playschool care room was in use as a sleep room after lunch.

Staffing

There were 10 adults working directly with the children including the registered provider and a relief staff member.

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

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- 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.

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, designated 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, 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.

(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 registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge. A named person was also available to deputise if 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.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure visible in the reception area with photographs and the position of

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each adult visible to view.

- (2) Following a review of the service files and discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that there were five new staff members employed in the service since the last inspection on the 15/05/2025. These five files were examined and the following noted:
- (a) Nine of the required 10 written and validated references were from previous employers.
 - (b) The remaining 1 of 10 references was from a source other than a previous employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the five adults demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Curricula vitae indicated police vetting disclosures were not required as none of the new adults working in the service had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months as adults.
- (4) Of the five new adults working directly with the early years children four held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 7 on the National Qualifications Framework. A letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality was available for the fifth adult.
- (7)
- (a) Documentation was available to evidence that induction had taken place for the five new adults who had commenced employment in the service.

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.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in attendance.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were met. There were 35 children in attendance with 9 adults in the morning and 33 children in attendance with 10 adults in the afternoon.
- (8)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were two adults on the premises while the early years children were present. The staff roster confirmed that the designated person in charge and the named person to deputise were on the premises while the early years children were in attendance.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;
 - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;
 - (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;
 - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;
 - (e) the facilities available;
 - (f) the opening hours and fees;
 - (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
 - (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;
 - (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
 - (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;
 - (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.

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(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the registered provider, manager, deputy manager, named persons and staff were observed to be kept in the staff recruitment files in the office.
- (b) Details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service was registered to provide were available on the Tusla Registration Certificate displayed on the notice board in the reception area and on page 4 of the policies and procedures document available in the service.
- (c) The details of the adult to child ratios were available on page 4 of the service policies and procedures document.
- (d) (e) (f) The type of care programme available was detailed on page 4 of the policies and procedures along with the facilities available, opening hours and fees on pages 4, 18 and 19.
- (g) The services policies and procedures, required for Regulation 10, were kept in soft form in the office and furnished to the inspector.
- (h) Attendance records for each child were available and stored on the multimedia application. The recorded entry and exit times of the children were observed to be within the operating hours of the service from 07:30 to 18:00.
- (i) The staff roster was noted to have been completed daily with each adult's hours of work and lunch break recorded.
- (j) Ten records of administration of medication from across the four care rooms from 26/02/2026 to 20/05/2026 were reviewed. These found to contain all the required information.
- (k) Ten accident/incident forms from across the four care rooms recorded from February 2026 to May 2026 were reviewed. These were found to contain all the particulars required.
- (3) The records referred to above were open to review on the premises.

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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

Compliance Information

Basic needs:

- The hot meal observed being served in the Playschool and Montessori care rooms consisted of fish fingers, beans, potatoes and gravy. In conversation the staff member in the kitchen stated this meal had been freshly cooked on the premises, in line with the service's healthy eating policy.
- Snacks were served regularly with the service providing fresh fruit at the morning snack at 09:45 and pizza and yogurt in the afternoon just before 15:00. Additional food including rice cakes were available for children remaining in the late afternoon.
- In line with the service's healthy eating policy age and stage appropriate feeding equipment was available. Younger children in the Tweenies and Toddler care rooms were observed drinking from beakers and older children in the Playschool and Montessori care rooms had access to individual water bottles from easily accessible water trays visible in each care room.
- Children in the Tweenies care room were observed wearing bibs during lunch ensuring their clothes were kept clean while eating.
- The individual sleep needs of younger children were met with two children observed sleeping in the Tweenies and Toddler designated sleep room at 10:30. Older children in the Playschool were facilitated with a scheduled rest period in the afternoon from 12:50 onwards.
- Rest areas with appropriate soft furnishings were available in each care room providing space for children to sit away from noisy activities.
- The Toddlers were observed to be dressed appropriately for the weather with waterproof jackets, trousers and hats.
- Toileting accidents were treated in a matter of fact and supportive manner, ensuring the dignity of the children. In conversation, the staff member stated all the children had spare clothing in the event they needed to be changed.

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- Nappy changing was carried out regularly and as required in the Tweenies and Toddler care rooms. Staff were heard praising the children and using the opportunity for one-to-one interactions.
- Staff in the Montessori care room were heard encouraging children to be mindful of the feelings of those in the area around them to build positive social relationships.

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.
- Children in the Toddler care room had room to crawl, roll and move on the soft mats on the floor learning to walk in a safe space.
- A variety of age and stage appropriate seating was available in each of the care rooms. The younger children in the Toddler care room had access to chairs with sides and footrests ensuring stability and safety while sitting and eating.
- 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 area. Opportunities were provided for children to practice their gross motor skills of climbing, cycling, running and sliding with balancing stones in use promoting children's spatial and body awareness. Imaginary play opportunities were available from mud kitchens, playhouses and a wooden pirate ship. Sensory materials including sand were in use with children observed engaging and exploring with different textures and materials.

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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 entrance door was secured on arrival. An electronic keypad was in place in reception which prevented unauthorised adults from entering the care rooms or children leaving the service unsupervised.
- Windows in the Tweenies care room were fitted with restrictors preventing children from exiting or falling.
- Electrical cables stored securely were inaccessible by the children throughout the premises.
- All toys and play equipment indoors and outdoors appeared in good condition and were well maintained.
- The chairs in use for lunch in the Tweenies care room were fitted with five-point harnesses ensuring that children could not climb or fall out of them while they were in use.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play area at the rear of the service 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. The adults were observed supervising the child while they were playing in the area.

Infection Control:

- Soothers were sterilised in the microwave with individually labelled soother boxes available for storage, preventing cross contamination in the Tweenies and Toddler care rooms.
- 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 41.6°C. Dispensing soap, dispensing paper towel roll for drying hands and pedal operated bins for the disposal of waste were provided.
- Windows were open in the care rooms and sleep rooms and mechanical ventilation was in operation in the sanitary and changing areas ensuring the circulation of fresh air.
- Cots in the Tweenies and Toddler sleep rooms were fitted with waterproof covers ensuring the mattresses were kept clean and dry.
- Handwashing was observed after toileting, coming in from outdoor play and before the eating of food.
- Cleaning schedules were noted to be up to date ensuring areas were kept clean and hygienic.

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- Staff in the Tweenies and Toddler care rooms were observed carrying out nappy changes every 2 hours and following the nappy changing procedure as per the nappy changing policy. Children's personal belongings were stored in individually labelled and lidded boxes nearby and staff were observed wearing disposable aprons and gloves for each nappy change. Nappies were disposed of in pedal operated, lined and sealed nappy bins available in the area. Mats and changing areas were sanitised after use.

Administration of Medication:

- Temperature reducing medications were available in the event of an emergency. They were stored in their original containers, out of reach of the children. The expiry dates were noted as 04/2028 and 05/2028.

Safe Sleep:

- The 7 cots in the Tweenies and Toddler designated sleep area were placed at least 50 centimetres apart, ensuring the safety of the children.
- The temperature of the sleep rooms, where children were all aged over 12 months old, were noted to be between the recommended 18°C and 22°C.
- Adults were present throughout the sleep period of both sleep rooms and physical sleep checks were evidenced on the service tablet and in paper format which were furnished to the inspector. These included the position, colour, breathing, room temperature and staff signatures of the staff recording the sleep checks in each area.

Fire Safety:

- The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were visible in the main office and on the walls next to the fire exit doors in the care rooms.
- The fire assembly point was visible at the rear of the outdoor play area, providing a designated safe place in the event of an emergency.
- In date fire extinguishers were secured by brackets to the walls of the service.
- Fire doors were fitted with thumb twist cylinders. These doors were unobstructed aiding the safe evacuation of children and adults in the event of an emergency.

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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) A First Aid Responder certificate (FAR) was available which indicated that a staff member was trained as a First Aid Responder. The staff roster indicated at least one suitably trained adult was available while the early years children were on the premises.
- (2)
- (a) Well stocked first aid boxes, stored securely in each of the care rooms, were accessible by the adults.
 - (b) The first aid boxes were available 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) Evidence that monthly fire drills were carried out was available in the service. The last date recorded was noted as 13 April 2026. Previous fire drills were dated 27 March 2025 and 16 February 2026.
 - (b) Written records were available of the servicing of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms. The recorded dates were noted as 02 July 2026 and 10 April 2026, respectively.
- (2)

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- (c) The required records were available on the premises for review.
- (4) The fire procedures were visible upon entry on the walls of the care rooms ensuring that the staff members were aware of the steps to be followed in the event of an emergency, aiding the safe evacuation of the children and adults on the premises to a place of safety.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

Documentation was available to evidence that the registered provider had adequate insurance for the type of service provided and the number of children attending. The expiry date was noted as 27 March 2027.