

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE146
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Name of Service:	Tiggerz Den
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Address of Service:	Sawalya, Old Grange, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W34 R265
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Name of Registered Provider:	Breda McGuirk
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	19/06/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Ballymore Eustace Road Naas Co. Kildare, W91X38W
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Maher
Title:	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.
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Description of service

Tiggerz Den pre-school is a sessional service that operates from a standalone single-story building to the rear of the registered providers' private home on the outskirts of Monasterevin Co. Kildare. Two pre-school rooms, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation are provided and a large play area, that is partially covered, is located to the rear of the premises.

Sessional care and education is provided to children aged 2-6 years old. Opening hours are from 9:15am-12:15pm and from 13:00pm-16:00pm Monday-Friday for 38 weeks of the pre-school year. One pre-school was operational during this current pre-school year for the morning and afternoon sessions.

Staffing

Three adults are employed in the service and work directly with the children; this includes the registered provider who was present throughout the inspection.

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 announced 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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

The records of three staff members employed and present in the service including the registered provider were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b)

Six written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source, in the absence of a past employer, were available in respect of three adults whose files were reviewed.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three employed staff members.

The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for two staff members who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

The three members of staff employed and who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed, held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
There were 11 children attending the service being supervised directly by 3 staff members during the inspection.
- (3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6.

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)-(i)

Ten child records were assessed and contained the relevant written details outlined in (a)-(i) of the regulation.

(3)(c)

All child records were available and open for inspection.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child 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.*

(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

(h)

The daily attendance record was available and completed in real time for each child's arrival and departure from the service.

(j)

A sample of one medicine administration record, recorded 10 June 2024 was inspected and contained the relevant information and details.

(k)

The accident and incident record book was reviewed.

A sample of ten recorded incidents, between 03/12/2024 – 30/05/2025, were inspected and contained the relevant information and details.

(3)

The records as outlined above were available and open for 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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Children were observed happy, content and relaxed within the pre-school environment. Staff members caring for the children ensured each child was supported in all aspects of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing and demonstrated warmth and affection in all their interactions with the children. Staff were very respectful towards the children in their care and positive body language, soft voice tones and gentle touch were used. Children were observed being fully supported by staff members as they transitioned from their self-directed play and activities throughout the morning.

The staff members sat with the children during snack time which was taken in the covered outdoor area making it an enjoyable and social experience for the children.

Children were supervised and assisted with hand washing as necessary which was observed taking place prior to and after the children engaged in a baking activity, before eating snack and following toilet use.

A suitable rest area with child sized couches was available in the pre-school room should a child wish to rest or take a break from activities during the morning.

There was an emphasis on positive behaviour and this was observed to be managed in a calm consistent manner.

Children were immediately acknowledged on an individual basis or as a group and were praised for a job well done.

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 to the service was secure and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service.

The staff members advised the inspector they supervise the children during snack time and immediately cut/halve any foods that have the potential risk of choking and would remove any necklace/beads if observed that a child may be wearing same.

No hazards were observed in the indoor environment or in the outdoor play area.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were observed on a high-level shelf in the pre-school room.

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)

One staff member present was trained in in first aid response (FAR) and was immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a)

The first aid equipment was safely stored and in a conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A record in writing was kept of all fire drills that took place in the premises. The last recorded fire drill was dated 13 May 2025.

(b)

There were records available detailing the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke/fire detection system in the service dated 10 April 2025 and 10 March 2025 respectively.

(4)

Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed being supervised by the staff members at all times in the pre-school room during the inspection; this included during snack time, bathroom use and handwashing, during activities and when taken for outdoor play. Any child requiring toilet use when in the outdoor play area was accompanied by a staff member inside and not left unattended.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 22 children.