

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE150
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Tiny Tots
-------------------------	-----------

Address of Service:	Prefab 3, Scoil San Carlo, Captains Hill, Leixlip, Co. Kildare
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	W23 E9D0
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Sheehan
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Dates of Inspection:	13/10/2025
-----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W90 E6H2
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

Tiny Tots is a privately owned sessional preschool service located on the grounds of Scoil San Carlo in Leixlip, Co Kildare. The service provides a play based sessional educational preschool service for children aged 2 – 6 years. The service is delivered a prefabricated building and operates for 38 weeks of the year. There two preschool rooms available to the children and the preschool have use of a designated area of the school playground for outdoor play.

Staffing

There were six adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider who was working directly with the children.

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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Records

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation(s) 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 inspector(s) wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

(2)

The inspection focused on the management and recruitment of all staff members who were employed by the service. A total of seven files were reviewed.

(a)(b) Two validated past employer or a reference from a source other than a past employer were available for all adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. The registered provider also demonstrated compliance with the regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was required for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of more than 6 months. The required documentation was reviewed by the inspector.

(4) All adults held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were twenty-three children present in the service being supervised by six adults during the 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

The inspector observed the children moving freely and making individual choices during the inspection. There were a number of defined interest areas including a home corner and cosy area with a well-stocked bookshelf in both care rooms. There were low level shelving containing tabletop activities including puzzles, bricks, small world play and sorting and counting which help promote the children's cognitive and numeracy skills. Children were engaged in a number of activities during the inspection including themed art activities pertaining to the current season.

The children's seasonal artwork was displayed on the walls of the service. The room has child sized tables and chairs for children to sit at for mealtimes and tabletop activities. An outdoor area was available to the front of the property which all children accessed on the day of inspection.

The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones, listening attentively and offering praise and encouragement. Staff used a timer to promote turn taking and sharing amongst the children when more than one child was interested in playing with the same piece of equipment and as a cue for a transition to the next activity.

An emergent curriculum was evident in the service. Children's interests were clearly incorporated into the activities and interest areas. The current theme of Halloween was evident with artwork displayed on the walls and discussion during circle time. Ongoing observations and assessments were documented which informed curriculum planning. Children's language development was supported through group discussions when carrying out art activities, circle time and during imaginative play during the inspection.

Parents provided all food for the children and drinking water was available at all times.

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 entrance door to the service was adequately secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. All cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children.

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were in good working order.

Infection Control:

Adults in the service were observed to implement infection control measures such as handwashing and cleaning.

On the day of inspection encouragement and supervision of children's hand washing was consistent. The children were encouraged, supported and assisted with handwashing following messy play, prior to meals and after using the toilet.

Adequate supplies of liquid hand soap, paper towels and warm water were available to facilitate hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

There was no requirement for emergency medication to be administered to any child in the service. Staff stated they do not administer any medication to children due to the service operating on a sessional basis only.

Fire Safety:

All fire exits were kept clear and regular fire drills took place.

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 person with current first aid training was available to the children throughout the inspection.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 1st October 2025 in Room 1 and 6th October 2025 in Room 2.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced during November 2024.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There was no evidence that the smoke alarms in the service had been serviced. This was found noncompliant on the last inspection dated 24th November 2022. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Fire Alarms were tested ASAP and are compliant. Registered tester to visit annually to test and review fire alarms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of fire certificate sent in for review.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the documentary evidence was reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 26.