

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LH078
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Name of Service:	Pugwash Bay Ltd
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Address of Service:	Lis na Dara, Carrick Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth
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Eircode:	A91 VR66
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Name of Registered Provider:	James Moore
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	11/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	40	PM	39
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna & M Flood
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
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Description of service

Pugwash Bay Ltd Lis na Dara is one of a chain of 6 Pugwash Bay services operated in Co. Louth and Co. Meath in addition to a further 8 early years services operated by the registered provider nationally. This full day care service is registered to accommodate 72 pre-school children and caters for babies and preschool children up to the age of 6 years. The service operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm each weekday.

There are currently 5 care rooms in operation on the premises namely: The Jelly Babies Room, The Skittles Room, The Little Buttons Room, The Marshmallows Room and The Rolos Room which are all located on the ground floor. The former Smarties room has been converted to a sleep room and is currently in use together with 2 additional sleep rooms. Ancillary accommodation consists of: sanitary areas, a kitchen, an office and storage areas. The children also have access to a developed outdoor play area to the side of the premises.

Staffing

There were 24 staff employed in the service, which included the following:

- The regional area manager who works directly with the preschool children.
- Twenty childcare staff who work directly with the preschool children and this includes the designated person in charge.
- Three staff who are engaged in catering, cleaning and maintenance duties.

Three students were also present in the service during 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

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- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety and premises and facilities. 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.

Additional Information

A referral was sent to the fire officer for fire safety advice.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the area manager, 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.*

(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

- (1)(a) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named deputy person to deputise as required. The person in charge and deputy person was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 10.15am and were present for the duration of the inspection. The service area manager arrived on the premises at approximately 10:55am and was also present for the duration of the inspection.
- (c) When questioned, staff were familiar with the management structure within the service and the roles and responsibilities of the various staff members.

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(2) Following a discussion with the designated person in charge and a review of the staff rosters, 11 new members of staff have been employed since the last inspection on 06/03/2025. Three students now also attend the service. The staff files for the 13 members of staff, including the area manager, were reviewed on the previous inspection and were found to be compliant.

The staff files for 11 new members of staff and 3 students were presented for inspection and reviewed:

(a) & (b)

- There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for 11 new members of staff and 3 students

(c) A processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for the 11 new members of staff and 3 students.

Garda vetting disclosures were also reviewed for the 13 members of staff. The registered provider adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence was available of required international police vetting for 6 new staff members and 1 student who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Sufficient documentary evidence was available to confirm that nine out of ten new members of staff who work directly with the children held at least the minimum required level 5 childcare qualification on the National Framework of Childcare Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

The following files for the new staff that were presented for inspection did not have the following required documents available:

(2)(d) Evidence of the required international police vetting was not available for 1 new staff member who had resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(3) From the documentary evidence available for inspection, one new staff member had commenced working in the service prior to the required international police vetting being obtained.

(4) Documentary evidence was not available to confirm that one new member of staff who works directly with the children held at least the minimum required level 5 childcare qualification on the National Framework of Childcare Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent.

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The non-compliances identified are recurring from the previous inspection that was carried out on 06/03/2025. The previous corrective and preventative actions submitted stated *"A strict policy is in place to ensure that no staff member will commence work until official documentation confirming full qualification has been received and verified. This includes a certified letter or certificate explicitly stating that the individual is fully qualified and has successfully completed their training. A monthly internal audit will be carried out by the manager to ensure compliance with documentation requirements. A quarterly audit will be conducted by the area manager to provide an added layer of oversight and accountability"*. These actions did not prevent the non-compliances reoccurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (d) The staff member submitted an application for the required international police clearance immediately upon identification of the issue. Only manager and higher management will ensure staff members can't commence work until all the correct documentation has been provided and signed off by both staff and Manager/Area Manager. Continuous audits to be completed on staff files to ensure all required vetting, including international police clearance where applicable, is obtained and verified prior to commencement of employment.

(3) It was identified that the staff member had provided police clearance documentation; however, it did not meet the required standard. The staff member has now submitted an application for the correct international police clearance immediately. The service has strengthened its recruitment procedures to ensure that only valid and appropriate vetting documentation is accepted. A pre-employment verification process will be completed by management to confirm that all vetting meets Tusla requirements before a staff member begins work. Staff will not be permitted to commence employment until full compliance is confirmed.

(4) A copy of the staff member's diploma has been obtained and placed on file immediately. Only manager and higher management will ensure staff members can't commence work until all the correct documentation has been provided and signed off by both staff and Manager/Area Manager. Continuous audits to be completed on staff files to ensure all required documentation is obtained and verified prior to commencement of employment. Continuous audits to be completed on staff files and ensure that at least level 5 certificate is on file while working directly with children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of completed international police vetting. Copy of the audit template.

Copy of completed level 5 award for the staff member.

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Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 9 (2) (d), (3) and (4).

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 10.15am and remained so throughout the inspection.

There were 5 care rooms in operation and the following adult to child ratios were observed on arrival to the service at 10:15am:

- In the Jelly Babies Room there were 5 preschool children aged 11months to 1 year being cared for by 2 staff members. One student was also present in the room.
- In the Little Buttons Room there were 10 preschool children aged 2 to 3 years being cared for by 2 staff members. One student was also present in the room.
- In the Skittles Room there were 9 children aged 1 to 2 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Rolos Room there were 9 pre-school children aged 2 to 2 years 10 months being cared for by 2 staff members. One student was also present in the room. The deputy person in charge was also in this room covering breaks.

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- In the Marshmallows Room there were 7 pre-school children aged 2 to 2 years 2 months being cared for by 2 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

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;

Non-Compliance Information

- (a) While 2 new members of staff had evidence of a curriculum vitae available, both of these were considered inadequate, for example, they did not detail employment records or educational records prior to 2024. And for one staff member, it could not be determined if international police vetting was required.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (a) Both staff members were requested to provide updated and comprehensive CVs immediately, including full employment and education history. Updated CVs have since been obtained and placed on file.
- The staff member in question has also confirmed via email to the Area Manager that they have not resided outside the Irish jurisdiction for a continuous period of 6 months or more in adulthood; therefore, international police vetting is not required in this case. This confirmation has been documented and retained on file. A standardised recruitment screening will be conducted in order to check and include full employment and education history with no unexplained gaps.
- As part of the recruitment process, all CVs will be reviewed by management prior to employment to assess whether international police vetting is required, based on residency history.
- All supporting declarations (e.g., residency confirmation) will be documented and retained in personnel files to ensure full compliance with Tusla requirements. Regular file audits will be conducted to ensure ongoing compliance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of 2 curriculum vitae. Audit checklist template.

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Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 16 (a).

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

Compliance Information

There were 5 rooms in operation on the day of the inspection: namely; The Jelly Babies Room, The Skittles Room, The Little Buttons Room, The Marshmallows Room and The Rolos Room.

A sampling process was used, and as a result, The Jelly Babies Room, The Skittles Room, The Little Buttons Room, and The Rolos Room are the subject of inspection under Regulation 19.

(1)(a) The following examples demonstrate how the registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs:

- Healthy eating was promoted as evidenced by the dinner and snacks provided by the service. All hot meals are provided by an external catering company and reheated by the service. On the day of the inspection, the lunch time dinner provided at 11.30am was observed to consist of creamy chicken pasta, and an alternative dairy-free option of Irish stew and mashed potato was also available. Breakfast was reported to consist of breakfast cereal and was also provided by the service between 8 and 9 am. The children brought in a variety of their own morning and afternoon snacks. The afternoon tea consisted of yoghurts, custard and apples. Independence with feeding was promoted and staff provided support to the younger children where needed.
- Potable drinking water was available for the children to access as required in all rooms. The children's drink bottles and cups were stored in baskets located on low-level shelves and, therefore, accessible for them as required. In the Jelly Babies room, the student present was observed to fill up the water jug and take it with cups outside to the children who were playing.

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- Nappies were changed regularly and in a timely manner, with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff. The children who were toilet-trained were encouraged to be independent with toileting. Discreet supervision was also provided by staff as required. Gentle handwashing reminders were also given to the children after toileting.
- The children's care needs were attended to on a regular basis, for example, hands were washed before snack times and after using the toilet, plus noses were wiped frequently. The younger children's faces were observed to be cleaned after meal times before going to sleep. Children's clothes that became soiled were promptly changed.

Supporting relationships around children and families

- The staff members in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and supportive manner. Soft tones, positive and respectful language were observed in interactions between the children and staff member for example, *"you can do it, yeah well done" "it's ok.... are you hungry? let's have some dinner" That's lovely, do you need help? Good job"*. Positive language and redirection strategies were observed in use for minor behavioural issues e.g. *"gentle hands thank you ...no pushing..." "she's your friend...we say sorry ...let ...go first good job guys...we don't push our friends, good boy."*
- The staff were observed to sit with the children and engage with them through play and during activities such as playdough, sticker activity, "working" role play games and with sensory sand play on a tray on the floor. Children called on staff and students for help when needed, which was promptly provided, for example, a child called for help with removing stickers from a sheet and cutting out a playdough shape.
- When children became upset for example, not wanting to come in from outside for dinner or not wanting to eat the dinner, staff were observed to comfort the child and chat with them to come up with solutions to prevent them from being upset.
- The staff, when questioned, stated that they use an electronic interactive communication system to record and share information about the children's daily activities and care needs with parents. Pictures of activities, games, curriculum plans, and the children's learning journeys are also shared through this 'app.' Partnership with parents is also supported through verbal communication at drop off and collection and for some, a parental messaging group is in use. The staff have a communication group where they share information through a messaging service and also have regular staff meetings in the service. The staff reported that they are reintroducing an "open door" policy in the service, beginning with one day a week for the current month.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- A suitable, comfortable rest area was available in each of the care rooms, with soft seating, mats and cushions provided, should a child need to rest or take a break from activities during the day.
- There were 3 separate sleep rooms observed in use during the inspection, including: a small sleep room off the Jelly Babies hallway containing 4 standard cots, a sleep room located between the Jelly Babies room and the new Smarties Sleep room that contained 8 standard cots, and the recently converted Smarties sleep room that contained 10 standard cots.
- A number of stackable beds were available for children aged over 2 years. These were observed in use when the Little Buttons was converted to a sleep area after dinner.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) There were instances where sleep facilities were found to be inadequate, as demonstrated by the following:

- In the sleep room off the Jelly Babies room, two of the cot mattresses were ill-fitting and had a foothold present in the cot. This is a potential safety hazard and was not identified by the staff carrying out the daily risk assessment of the sleep room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b) The ill-fitting mattresses were removed from use immediately upon identification of the issue and replaced with appropriately fitted mattresses that meet safety standards. All cots in the sleep room were checked to ensure compliance. Staff were informed of the issue and reminded of the importance of ensuring all sleep equipment is safe and suitable. A comprehensive review of all sleep equipment has been conducted to ensure that all cots and mattresses are correctly fitted and compliant with safety standards. The daily risk assessment procedure has been strengthened to include a specific check of cot and mattress suitability. Staff have received refresher guidance on identifying potential sleep safety hazards, including ill-

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fitting mattresses. Management will carry out regular audits of sleep rooms to ensure ongoing compliance with Tusla requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

Receipt of purchases of mattresses. Copy of staff training attendance. Updated daily risk assessment.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 20 (1) (b). The sustainment and implementation of preventative actions will be reviewed upon the next inspection.

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

It was observed that the registered provider has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service, including:

General Safety:

- The external and internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the Early Years' service.
- A visitor log was maintained, and the inspectors were requested to sign in and out upon arrival and departure.
- The outdoor play area located to the side of the premises was gated and secured with fencing to prevent a child from gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger.
- Sharp edges on the paving stones and low-level sills in the outdoor areas were protected with foam padding.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children on high shelving and in locked cupboards.
- The highchairs observed in use had a safety harness in place and were observed in use during feeding time.
- The children were observed to be adequately supervised throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, hand soap, paper towels and pedal bins were provided in each sanitary area and care rooms.
- With the exception detailed below, regular handwashing was observed in the service, before snack and mealtimes, after using the toilet and after nappy changing.

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- Good environmental cleaning practices were observed. Tables were be cleaned by staff before snack and meal times.
- Daily and weekly cleaning records were available and on display in the care rooms and sanitary areas.
- Pedal-operated waste bins were observed in use and were appropriately maintained on the day of the inspection.
- Children’s soothers were stored in individual labelled containers. Staff outlined the appropriate cleaning and sterilisation procedure of soothers.
- A procedure for mouthed toys was in place, with a box labelled for storage of toys before being washed.

Safe Sleep:

- Physical safe sleep observations were carried out at the required 10-minute intervals by the staff members who were present in the 3 sleep rooms and the Little Buttons room when it was used as a sleep area after dinner.

Non-Compliance Information

The Inspectorate is not assured that adequate steps have been taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the pre-school children attending the service based on the following observations made during the inspection;

General Safety:

1. One of the mattresses in the cot room, located off the Jelly Babies care room did not have the required safety standard label in place.
2. A low-level electrical lead, which was plugged into a wall socket, was accessible to a child in a cot in the small sleep room. This is a potential safety risk.
3. In the outdoor area, sharp edges from a broken chalkboard on the wall and 2 protruding nails on the wooden boat were accessible to the children playing. While no injury was observed, one child’s trousers were observed getting caught on the nails. These are a potential injury risk.
4. In the outdoor area, a gap was observed in the steel trim on the path. This is a potential trip or injury risk to a child playing in the area.
5. Sharp corners on units were present in the Little Buttons room. This is a recurring non-compliance where the registered provider outlined in their corrective and preventive action that *“All sharp corners in the relevant areas have been safely covered to reduce the risk of injury”*, which has been ineffective in preventing the non-compliance from recurring.
6. A plug for lights in the cosy area in the Rolo room had a protruding connection on the plug and a cord located at a low level, which poses a risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

The staff did not always take appropriate steps to prevent the spread of infection in the service. For example;

7. The following cross infection practices were observed during nappy changing. For example: a staff member in the Rolos room was observed to wear the same apron for 6 nappy changes and the children's hands were not washed following nappy changing. In the Little Buttons room, the staff member kept the gloves on that were used to change the child's nappy, sprayed the nappy changing mat, reached for a paper towel to dry the mat and also helped the child reach for a paper towel to dry their hands, all while wearing the gloves from the nappy changing process. These practices are not in accordance with the service's nappy changing policy.
8. Hand washing was not observed being carried out when the children from the Jelly Babies room returned from outside play. This is a cross-contamination risk as the children were observed to return to play with the toys and the sensory tray containing edible rice puffs and wheat crumbs.
9. Some perishable food items were observed inappropriately stored in a box in the Jelly Babies room rather than in a refrigerator. In addition, a bottle of milk that one child was observed to drink from in the Skittles Room was stored in their bag in the care room rather than the refrigerator.
10. The nappy bin observed in use in the sanitary area off the Jelly Babies room was unsuitable. The lid did not close and therefore did not provide a sealed bin as required. In addition, the children in the Rolo and Little Buttons room were observed to lift the lid of pedal-operated bins with their hands when disposing of paper hand towels following handwashing practises. The staff in the Little Buttons room were observed on two occasions to lift the lid of the pedal-operated bin for the disposal of nappies. The
11. In the Rolo room, one child was observed to wear a dress-up costume and take some stickers they were playing with into the nappy changing area with them. Both the dress-up costume and stickers were taken back to the play area by the child following their nappy change. This is a cross-infection risk.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The non-compliant mattress was removed immediately and replaced with a new mattress that meets the required safety standards and includes the appropriate labelling. All sleep equipment has been reviewed to ensure compliance with safety standards and appropriate labelling. Regular equipment audits will be conducted by management to ensure ongoing compliance with Tusla requirements.

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2. The low-level electrical lead was removed immediately, and cable covers were installed to eliminate access to electrical hazards. A full environmental safety check will be conducted to identify and eliminate accessible electrical hazards. Staff have been verbally reminded to include electrical safety checks in daily risk assessments. Ongoing monitoring and regular safety Checks and Hazards Identification Audit will be conducted to ensure compliance with Tusla standards.
3. The broken chalkboard was removed immediately. The identified hazards, including protruding nails, were addressed to eliminate risk to children. A comprehensive inspection of the outdoor area has been completed to identify and rectify any additional hazards. A routine outdoor safety checklist has been scheduled daily. Staff have been reminded to report and act on hazards promptly. Regular maintenance checks will be carried out to ensure continued compliance with Tusla requirements.
4. Maintenance staff addressed the hazard immediately by fitting a metal piece to securely cover the gap. All outdoor surfaces have been reviewed to identify potential trip hazards. The manager will ensure that the maintenance log is used daily to ensure timely repair of identified issues. Regular inspections will be conducted to ensure that outdoor play areas remain safe and compliant with Tusla standards.
5. Safety corner covers were installed immediately on all low-level units to reduce the risk of injury. A more robust approach has been implemented to ensure all sharp edges are consistently covered and maintained. All rooms have been re-assessed for similar risks. Management will carry out frequent spot-checks to ensure corner protectors remain securely in place. The effectiveness of control measures will be reviewed regularly to prevent recurrence and ensure compliance with Tusla requirements.
6. The lights and associated plug were removed immediately to eliminate the hazard. All electrical equipment within children's reach has been reviewed and removed or made safe as appropriate. Daily safety checks and periodic audits will ensure continued compliance with Tusla standards.

Infection Control:

7. Infection control training was delivered to all staff during a staff training day on 02/04/2026, with a focus on correct nappy changing procedures, appropriate use of PPE, and hand hygiene practices. Additional Nappy Changing training focusing just on this specific area has been booked for all staff. The nappy changing procedure has been reinforced with all staff, including clear step-by-step guidance in line with best practice. Ongoing supervision and spot checks will be carried out by management to ensure adherence to procedures. Infection control will be a standing item on staff meeting agendas, and regular refresher training will be scheduled to ensure continued compliance with Tusla requirements.

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8. Infection control training was provided on 02/04/2026, and the importance of handwashing after outdoor play was reinforced at a subsequent staff meeting. A clear handwashing routine has been discussed, requiring all children to wash their hands after outdoor play. Staff have been assigned the responsibility to supervise and ensure compliance. Visual reminders have been introduced where appropriate, and management will monitor adherence through regular observations to ensure compliance with Tusla standards.
9. Staff were immediately reminded of the correct procedures for storing perishable food items and milk bottles, ensuring all such items are stored in appropriate refrigerated conditions. Food storage procedures have been reinforced with all staff. Regular checks will be carried out to ensure compliance with safe food storage practices. Clear guidance has been reissued regarding the handling and storage of children's food and bottles, and compliance will be monitored through routine supervision in line with Tusla requirements.
10. A new, appropriate pedal-operated nappy bin with a fully functioning sealed lid was purchased and put into use immediately. Infection control procedures, including correct waste disposal practices, were reinforced during the staff training day using practical scenarios. All waste disposal equipment has been reviewed to ensure suitability and proper functioning. Staff have been instructed on the correct use of pedal bins to avoid hand contact. Ongoing monitoring and refresher training will be implemented to ensure adherence to infection control procedures and compliance with Tusla standards.
11. Staff were immediately reminded to ensure that no toys or play items are brought into nappy changing areas and to supervise children closely during transitions to prevent such occurrences. This was also discussed with staff during the Staff Training Day on 02.04.2026. Clear procedures have been reinforced to ensure that nappy changing areas remain strictly separate from play items. Staff supervision during nappy changing routines has been strengthened. Regular reminders and monitoring will be implemented to ensure adherence to infection control practices and compliance with Tusla requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Receipt of new mattress. Photo of leads secured and updated safety checklist. Health and Safety room Checklist
Photo evidence of removal of chalkboard. Outdoor daily checklist. Photo of the gap repaired. Receipt for the purchase of corner covers and photos of them in place. Photo of the removal of the plug.

Infection Control:

Staff training attendance sheet & training information. Receipts of purchase of bins.

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Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted has adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 23. The sustainment and implementation of preventative actions will be reviewed upon the next 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) The registered provider ensured that there was a person trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) at all times in the service, as was evidenced by the up to date FAR certificates available in the service for four staff.

(2)(a) and (b) There were several adequately stocked first aid boxes in the service available at all times and stored out of the reach of the children.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Compliance Information

(c) Adequate ventilation was observed on the day of inspection. No odours were evident in the service.

Mechanical ventilation fans were observed to be working, and windows were opened and closed as required throughout the day.

(d) The premises was visually clean on inspection. Documentary evidence was available of cleaning schedules and up to date cleaning records, including the sanitary areas, sleep room and care rooms.