

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK170
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Name of Service:	Tall Trees Childcare
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Address of Service:	Glanntan, Golf Links Road, Castletroy, Co. Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 P276
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Name of Registered Provider:	Pamela Walsh
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	11/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	104	PM	66
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early years inspectorate, Tusla, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	E Browne and J Ryan
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).

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Description of service

Tall Trees Creche is a full day care facility offering full time, part time and sessional hours to children of all preschool ages. It operates Monday to Friday, 7.30am to 6.15pm. It offers an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school programme from 9am to 12md. The service can accommodate a maximum number of 160 preschool children at any one time. A service for school aged children is offered each afternoon.

The service operates from a purposely designed, single storey building located in a residential area in the outskirts of Limerick city.

The premises consists of 7 well designed playrooms all of which are occupied by preschool children each morning. There are 5 preschool rooms in operation each afternoon and 2 playrooms are available for the school aged children when the morning sessional services are over.

Bathroom facilities for adults and children are available including nappy changing facilities for the younger children. Facilities for outdoor play are available to the rear and back of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider is the owner and manager of the service.

There were 25 staff present on the day of inspection working across 7 playrooms (this includes the registered provider and the deputy manager)

All staff working with the children hold an award in Early Childhood Care & Education ranging from levels 5 to 9 on the National Qualifications Framework.

An additional 2 adults are employed to cover the kitchen and cleaning duties in the premises.

An additional 1 adult available to care for the school aged 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:

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- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance and health, welfare and development of child. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (3)(4)

Regulation 10

Regulation 11 (1)(2)

Regulation 19 (1)(a)

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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) The registered provider responsible for operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named deputy person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider and the deputy were present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy were always available on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure that identified the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each member of the management team.

(2) The files of 28 adults were viewed on the day of the inspection

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- (a) 50 written and validated references were available from past employers.
- (b) 6 written and validated references were available from other sources.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for all the staff employed to work at the service including the registered provider.
- (d) Police vetting was available for the 13 staff members who had resided outside of Ireland for longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) All vetting procedures were carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) All adults working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent such qualification.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were viewed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement of Regulation 10.

- Complaints Policy.
- Policy on Managing Behaviour.

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.

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Compliance Information

(1) On the morning of the inspection there were 104 pre-school children and 23 adults on the premises working directly with the children. The adult child ratio was correct in the facility.

There were 19 preschool children and 3 staff in the Tiger Room(3-5years)

There were 17 preschool children and 4 staff in the Caterpillar Room (3-5years)

There were 19 preschool children and 4 staff in the Montessori Panda Room (3-5years)

There were 19 preschool children and 4 staff in the Butterfly Room (3-4years)

There were 9 preschool children and 3 staff in Seedling Room (1-2years)

There were 10 preschool children and 3 staff in Acorn Room (2-3years)

There were 11 preschool children and 2 staff in the Blossom Room (2-3years)

The registered provider and the deputy were on site and available if needed in any of the playrooms.

There were 2 additional staff available for the kitchen and cleaning duties and 1 additional staff to care for the school aged children.

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 services management and staff ensured that each child's basic needs were facilitated within the daily life of the creche. A Healthy Eating policy was in place with a 3-week menu plan displayed and shared with all parents.

Nutritious hot meals and snacks were prepared fresh and were served to all rooms throughout the day

Appropriate crockery and cutlery were used depending on the age of the children. Children drinks were accessible to them at all times, and these were taken outdoors when children moved outside to play.

Sanitary accommodation and nappy changing facilities were located next to each room. Staff were observed to follow the procedures as outlined in the nappy changing policy for the service. Children's toiletries were stored

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close to each changing unit and within easy reach of the staff. Staff washed their hands before and after each nappy change. The staff assisted each child to wash their hands using the hot and cold running water, liquid soap and paper towels to dry. All soiled nappies were appropriately disposed of in foot pedal operated lidded bins. Each child has access to a change of clothes if needed. Each room has a supply of tissues and wipes and foot pedal operated, lidded bins were accessible for the safe disposal of waste in each room. Children spend long periods of time outdoors each day. The outdoor spaces were easily accessible from each room. The areas were subdivided to ensure children shared the spaces with others of similar age groupings. Sheltered areas outside ensured children got outdoors in all weather conditions.

Separate sleep facilities were available next to each room accommodating the children under 2 years of age. There was an adequate supply of standard cots available to facilitate sleep on demand for all children. All cots were in good condition, and all had waterproof sheets in place. Children were closely monitored while sleeping and all checks were documented on a tablet device, and the information was shared with parents throughout the day.

Rest/relaxation areas with soft couches, small lamp lights, cushions and blankets were accessible in each of other rooms occupying the older children. These areas allowed children have space to rest during the day if tired.

Relationship and Interactions around children:

The service supports children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with the staff members.

There was a key person assigned to each child. The staff knew each child individually by name, their likes, dislikes and interest. When talking to the children they got down to their level and were observed making eye contact.

They were observed listening to the voice of the child as they communicated their needs, their feelings and thoughts and their experiences both verbally and non-verbally by reading the children's cues, gestures and body language.

The staff were observed to respond to the children's cues for assistance in a prompt and sensitive manner. The staff were positive in their communication with the children, using soft tones of voice and listening to the children in a caring and positive way. When a child got upset or tired they were observed offering comfort and nurture.

There were many opportunities for small and large group activities and play, to support children working together on different tasks, eating and playing together and to recognise and accept their differences and similarities.