

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LS027			
Name of Service:	The Maples Creche			
Address of Service:	Forest Park, Portlaoise, Co. Laois			
Eircode:	R32 A26E			
Name of Registered Provider:	Monica Delaney			
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional			
Dates of Inspection:	09/03/2026			
No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	28
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore Co. Offaly R35 K1W4			
Inspection undertaken by:	R Flynn and F Carty			
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.			

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

The Maples Creche offers full day care, part time and sessional care and education to children aged between 1 – 6 years. The service operates from 07:30 – 18:30 Monday to Friday. This full day care service is one of two services operated by the registered provider in the town of Portlaoise, Co Laois.

This service operates from the ground floor of an adapted domestic dwelling in a residential area. The service consists of the Chicklets room (1-2 years), the Chicks room (2-3 years), the Caterpillar room (3-4 years) and the Butterfly room (3-4 years), a sleep room, an office and a kitchen. A portacabin is located in the outdoor play area for the use by school age children and staff during break times. An outdoor area is provided to the back of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available to the front of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs fourteen adults to work in the service. Eleven adults were working in the service on the day of inspection, this included the registered provider, the person in charge, eight childcare staff and a cook. The registered provider works in the service and facilitated the inspection on 09 March.

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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under,

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 15 – Record of preschool child,
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health, welfare and development of child.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 24(1),(3)(a)(b)– Checking in and out and record of attendance,
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under

- Regulation 16 – Record in relation to preschool service.
- Regulation 21 – Equipment and Materials and
- Regulation 29 (c)- Premises.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Additional Information

A referral was made to the Chief Fire Officer regarding fire safety concerns identified under Regulation 23.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors 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

(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.*
- (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.*

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The registered provider and the person in charge were on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that one new staff member was employed to work in the service since the previous inspection held on 27 February 2025.

(2) (a)

Two written validated references were available from a previous employer in respect of the new staff member.

(c)

Garda vetting was available for all staff members employed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was not required for the new staff member as they had not lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Not applicable as the staff member was not providing direct care to the preschool children.

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. On arrival at the service, there were forty-four children being supervised directly by eight childcare staff.

(2)

Morning

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- There was one adult providing direct care to five children aged between 1-2 years in the Chicklets room.
- There were two adults providing direct care to eleven children aged between 2-3 years in the Chick room.
- There were two adults providing direct care to thirteen children aged between 3-4 years in the Caterpillar room.
- There were three adults providing direct care to fifteen children aged between 3-4 years in the Butterfly room.

Afternoon

- There were three adults providing direct care to nine children aged between 1-3 years in the Chick room.
- There were five adults providing direct care to nineteen children aged between 3-4 years in the Butterfly room.

(8)(a)

There were at least two adults on the premises duration the operational hours of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

Minimum adult/child ratios were not maintained at all times. At 12:00pm, a staff member was observed in the outdoor play area with 7 children aged between 2-3 years. A second staff member arrived to support the staff member in the outdoor play area at 12:08pm. The ratio for children age 2-3 years is 1:6.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff members have been retrained in relation to ratios and now understand what the ratios are for each age group but also how important it is to maintain these ratios at all times. As part of the retraining, staff now understand if they are stepping out for any reason to call for a staff member to replace them. Training will be provided to new staff in relation to understanding the importance of maintaining ratios at all times.

The management team will carry out spot checks to ensure the whole team is very clear on the importance of ensuring ratios are always met.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of template listing ratios received.

Copy of list of staff signatures who attended training.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 11 has been adequately addressed.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)
A sample of 36 records were reviewed by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to (a)(b)(c)(d)(f)(i) of the above regulation for the records reviewed.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(e)(g)(h)
One child record had no recorded details for a suitable person who was authorised to collect the child, the child's GP details or their immunisation record.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The child's record has been updated with the relevant information. The record of each new child enrolling into the service will be double checked by both the manager and the registered provider.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of immunisation record reviewed by the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 15 (1) has been adequately addressed.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(i)

The staff roster presented was not adequate.

The weekly roster presented for the week of March 09 did not detail the following:

- Staffs rostered hours for Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 March 2026, to include start, finish and break times for each staff member.
- The staff roster did not set out the adult to child ratio for each area of the service by providing information on the allocated rooms the staff members were assigned to work in.
- The named staff member to provide cover for staff breaks.
- The full names of the staff members.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A weekly roster now includes staff start, finish and break times. A specific staff member has now been allocated to breaks daily. All staff members will be identified on the staff roster in relation to their room allocation. Staff child ratios will also be identified. The staff roster will contain the full names of staff members. This will ensure all staff

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

have a clear understanding where they are working during the day. The staff roster will be amended weekly where required and available for all staff members.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of updated staff roster received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 (1) has been adequately addressed.

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

(1)(a) Basic Needs of child

Parents provide the morning snack for their child. The service provides the main meal and an afternoon snack. The hot meal was cooked onsite by the cook. Dinner served on the day of inspection was mince, mashed potato and vegetables. A large serving bowl was placed on each low-level table in the Butterfly room and staff served the children into individual bowls. Children were offered additional portions. Children sat together at low tables eating their lunch, staff also sat with the children, engaging in conversation. Children had individual water bottles, which were accessible in each room throughout the day at water stations. Drinks of milk were also provided with dinner.

Sanitary accommodation was available to the children directly off the care rooms and children accessed the toilet independently or were supported by staff if needed, during the inspection. Adequate nappy changing facilities were available in the sanitary accommodation.

Cots and stackable beds were available in the designated sleep room for children from the Chicklets and Chicks room.

Supporting relationships

Communication with parents is facilitated during drop off and collection times. Children's day to day activities and learning was recorded on a tablet in each room by staff. Updates regarding the children's day to day routines and

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

care are shared via an online application. A child friendly daily routine was on display in the Butterfly room offering the children predictability to the routine. An 'Our Community Book' in the Butterfly room had pictures of creche and staff, the hospital, pharmacy, swimming pool and local church, helping the children feel connected to their community.

Physical and material environment

Children had a range of play-based equipment to choose from that offered stimulation, exploration and provided for imaginative activities. A playhouse, bookshelves stocked with books, arts and crafts materials and blackboards were available. Musical instruments, building blocks, jigsaws and toy vehicles were positioned on accessible low-level shelving in the care rooms. Children's artwork was displayed throughout the service. Children from the Butterfly room and Caterpillar room were observed to engage in a tabletop activity of modelling clay with shape cutters.

An enclosed outdoor area provided an opportunity for outdoor play. The outdoor area had large tyres positioned throughout the garden to form an obstacle course. Energetic play was supported with the availability of a slide, a dome climbing frame and a basketball hoop. A plastic corrugated roof covered part of the outdoor space to allow for play during all weather conditions. Wall mounted black boards and ride on vehicles were available.

Non-Compliance Information

- The care practices and interactions observed in the Chicklets room on the morning of the inspection were inadequate to meet the needs of the age and stage of development of the children evidenced as follows:
 - A child aged 1 year was observed to cry for a prolonged period of time without any comfort offered by staff. From 12.04pm until 12.21pm a child was crying and looking for comfort, the staff member placed the child at a table with toys and sang a song to try to distract them and stated, 'you're fine there's nothing wrong with you'.
 - On numerous occasions a staff member was observed to use language such as 'ah, ah' don't do that' and 'get down you' when managing behaviour in the care room. This is at variance with the service behaviour management policy which states positive behaviour management strategies should be used.
 - A number of children were observed with runny noses and required their noses to be wiped throughout the morning. The staff member was observed to use blue paper roll on the children's noses which is harsh to a child's skin. There were tissues observed in other care rooms in the service.
 - The sleep practice for children age 1-2 was inadequate for their developmental needs. There was no designated sleep time or plans in place should a child become tired and require sleep. Staff stated the

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

children in the Chicklets room do not go to sleep at all during full day care. At 12.25pm a child aged one year was observed to fall asleep on the staff member's lap the staff member did not move them to a cot until the inspector requested, they do so. Later that day another child was put to sleep from the Chicklets room when they became tired. Staff were not aware of the children's individual sleep needs, which can affect the care they receive when in the service.

- Despite there being a designated sleep room with cots and floor bed, no child from the Chicks room, where the children are aged between 2-3 years, had a sleep during their full day at the service. There was no set sleep routine to accommodate children when they displayed signs of tiredness.
 - Throughout the morning of the inspection in the Chicklets room, activities were adult led. At times children were engaged in tabletop activities such as arts and crafts, the staff member was observed to remove activities after a short period and replace it with a different activity, despite the children appearing engaged and enjoying the activity. The children did not get an opportunity to direct their own learning and have freedom of choice.
 - There were no bibs put on the children in the Chicklets and Chicks rooms during dinnertime resulting in their clothes becoming soiled.
2. The rest areas required further development for children to rest or relax in all care rooms. The rest areas were inadequate for children who attended on a full day care basis to take appropriate rest from activities throughout the day. There were a small sofa and a mat in the Chicks and Chicklet rooms. There was no rest area in the Caterpillar room.
3. At 12:00pm, a staff member was observed in the outdoor play area with 7 children aged between 2-3 years. One child was observed sitting on a trike that was too big for them. The child was crying; however, the staff member present was busy with another child. The child could not place their feet on the ground or reach the pedals on the trike and required the assistance of a staff member to use the trike or to get off. A second staff member arrived to support the staff member in the outdoor play area at 12:08pm.
4. Caterpillar and Butterfly room
Children from the Caterpillar and Butterfly rooms merge together in one room for lunch and for the afternoon. During lunch time, there were 23 children sitting at three tables. The room was extremely loud from 12.25pm – 12.45pm. The staff did not support the children to use calm indoor voices or redirect the children with a story or songs while waiting for their meal. Signs were displayed in the rooms stating, 'indoor voices need to be used'. It was difficult for children to hear and communicate with each other. After lunch a staff member attempted to read a story to the children. Two children were observed trying

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

to hear the story however, 17 children were in the area where the story was being read and playing energetically with a variety of toys, making it very difficult for the children to hear the story.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A staff training session was held with staff in relation to interactions with children, how to soothe a crying child and using positive language with the children. All staff have been issued with a copy of the services Behaviour Management Policy and have signed off on it to ensure they understand it. New staff will have induction training prior to commencement in the service in relation to behaviour management, sleep routines, and child management.
 - The staff member who mistakenly wiped a child's nose with blue roll has been spoken to and understands that it is not acceptable to use blue roll as a tissue. A staff member has been allocated to checking each room has a box of tissues each morning.
 - Sleep plans are in place for each individual child. Parents had been requesting that their child not sleep during the day. This has been addressed with the parents who request that their child does not sleep during the day. Parents and staff have been issued with a copy of the sleep policy. It has been explained to all parents that the service is child led service and all children are offered sleep time during the day.
 - The staff have attended training on Aistear The National Curriculum Framework delivered by Laois county childcare committee to ensure they fully understand that children must direct their own learning and have freedom of choice.
 - Bibs have now been supplied to all of the younger children's rooms.
2. Rest areas have received a revamp to ensure children can rest and relax in an appropriate manner.
3. Staff members have been retrained in relation to ratios and now understand how important it is to maintain these ratios at all times. Staff understand if they are stepping out for any reason to call for a staff member to replace them. Training will be provided to new staff in relation to understanding the importance of maintaining ratios at all times. The management team will carry out spot checks to ensure the whole team is very clear on the importance of ensuring ratios are always met.
4. The caterpillar and butterfly rooms no longer merge together for lunch. Staff members will sit with the children during meals and engage them in conversation.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of template listing ratios received.

Copy of list of staff signatures who attended training.

Copy of sleep policy and sleep plans received.

Photograph of new rest area received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 19 have been adequately addressed.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The furniture in the Chicks and Chicklets rooms was unsuitable for the age of the children attending each room. Children were observed sitting on chairs which were the incorrect height for them as they could not place their feet on the ground for balance and stability. This posed a potential risk of injury to a child if they lost their balance and fell off the chair.
2. Two scooters in the outdoor play area were observed to have missing handles. This compromised the grip for children using the outdoor play equipment.
3. A play mat in the shape of a flower in the Chick's room was torn in a number of places and required replacement.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Furniture in the chicks and chicklet rooms have been changed to suit their age and stage of development.
2. All toys throughout the service have been inspected and any broken toys have been disposed of.
3. The play mat in the chick room has been replaced. The manager will carry out and sign off on monthly checks of all rooms and equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of new mats and furniture received.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 21 have been addressed.

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 doors to the service were secure and managed by the staff within. This prevented children exiting the pre-school unsupervised and unauthorised access to the service. A doorbell alerted staff to any visitors. Cleaning products were stored on high shelves out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap and warm water were available for hand washing. The children were supported to wash their hands before snack time, after using the bathroom and after outdoor play. Pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation for the hygienic disposal of waste. Mechanical ventilation was in place in the sanitary accommodation in the Butterfly room, as well as openable windows. The care rooms were well-ventilated with openable windows.

Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if a child presented with a high temperature and was stored safely in the kitchen. No medication was administered on the day of inspection. Staff were familiar with the procedure of administration of medication if required by a child. Staff informed the inspectors that no child attending the service was on specific medication.

Safe Sleep:

Staff carried out sleep checks every ten minutes on children who were asleep. They recorded the temperature of the sleep room, position and breathing of the children.

Fire Safety:

A fire assembly point was posted on the wall at the back of the premises in the outdoor play area. Staff were able to demonstrate the procedure of fire drills in the service.

Outing:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

A policy was in place to support outings conducted by the service. The registered provider advised that the children participate in an annual outing to a pet farm. A risk assessment, check list and parental consent forms were completed prior to outings. .

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A toaster was stored on top of the microwave, which was on top of the fridge in the Butterfly room and Chicks room, there was a trailing cable within reach of the children which posed a risk of injury to children.
2. A number of hazards were identified in the outdoor play area which posed a risk of injury to the children as follows:
 - A wooden piece of equipment located in the outdoor play area off the Butterfly room, was damaged with exposed jagged edges and sharp nails sticking out; this was accessible to children playing in the outdoor area and posed a risk of injury to the children.
 - A damaged tree had fallen on the outside of the fence in the outdoor play area. The wire fence located to the rear of the outdoor play area could not support the tree and the fence was leaning inwards into the outdoor play area compromising the security of the perimeter fencing.
 - A gas heater was located in the roofed outdoor area to the side of the Butterfly room; there was a gas cylinder attached with a pipe which was accessible to the children.
 - A wooden climbing frame was severely water damaged was unsafe for children to use. It is acknowledged that staff used a slide and chairs to prevent children from gaining access to the equipment.
3. The surface radiator temperature in the Chicks room was recorded at 58.7°C which posed a risk of a child receiving a burn injury.

Infection Control:

4. Inadequate infection control measures to prevent the spread of infection were observed on the day of inspection as follows:
 - There was no effective system in place to sterilise the mouthed toys in the Chicklet and Chicks room. Children with runny noses were observed to place toys in their mouth and staff did not remove these from circulation. This non-compliance was found on a previous inspection dated 27th February 2025. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provide did not prevent the re-occurrence of this non-compliance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Staff did not wash their hands following wiping children's noses.
- Staff were observed to manually handle bins in the service and not use the foot pedals.
- Waterproof mattress protectors were not provided on the mattresses of the cots in the sleep room.

Safe Sleep:

5. The sleep records demonstrated that staff recorded the incorrect sleep room temperatures. During inspection, staff recorded the temperature as 18°C. The temperature stated on the thermometer in the sleep room was 20°C.

Fire Safety:

6. Exit doors in all the care rooms identified with fire exit signage were obstructed with internal half doors and bolts at the top of the door which were locked during the inspection. This posed a risk to the safe evacuation of children in the event of a fire.
7. The bar on the fire exit door in the Caterpillar room was not functioning, a slide bolt on top of the door was used keep the door closed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The toaster has been removed to a more suitable location.

All hazards identified on the day have been removed.

New fencing has been installed in the outdoor play area.

A radiator cover has been fitted to the radiator.

Infection Control:

A sign has been printed and laminated and put on boxes for mouthed toys to ensure greater clarity for everyone.

The staff will place mouthed in these boxes and then wash these at the end of the day.

Staff have been retrained in hand washing.

Staff have been retrained in the correct use of bins.

Waterproof mattress protectors have been placed on all cot mattresses.

Safe Sleep:

The temperature of the sleep room will be recorded correctly.

Fire Safety:

The push bar on the fire exit door in the Caterpillar room has been replaced.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photograph of fridge with microwave and toaster removed.

Photograph of labelled mounted toys box received.

Photograph of radiator cover received.

Infection Control:

Photograph of new mattress protectors received.

Fire Safety:

Video demonstrating the new functioning push bar received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed. A referral was made to the fire officer in relation to fire safety issues identified.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each care room.

Non-Compliance Information

(3)(a)(b)

The service did not maintain a record of any visitors to the service. The registered provider advised the inspectors that there was no written record of visitors maintained in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

There is a visitors sign in and out book but was not available on the day. This is now fully in use and is on the desk in the front door for all visitors to sign in and out. The manager will continuously monitor the sign in and out book to ensure it is being used properly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Picture of sign in and out book included in CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 24 (3) has been adequately addressed.

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)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Three staff members were qualified in First Aid response (FAR).

(2)(a)

Suitably equipped first aid boxes were located in each preschool room throughout the service.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

A review of the staff roster indicated that a First Aid Response (FAR) qualified staff member was not present in the service between 5:30pm-6:30pm on Monday 09 March. This posed a potential risk to children in the event of a medical emergency occurring. A staff member trained in FAR must be present in the service during the operational hours of the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider and five staff members have undertaken FAR training to ensure the service is fully covered during the operational hours. The manager will ensure there is documentation in relation to expiration dates for First aid certification.

Supporting documentation submitted

FAR training certificates received for newly trained staff members with expiry dates in April 2028.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 (1) has been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- (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 written record for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 23 February 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number and type of the firefighting equipment on the premises. The smoke detection system was serviced on 20 January 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at doorways throughout the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The firefighting equipment was not serviced annually; the firefighting equipment was last serviced in January 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire extinguishers were service the day after the inspection, 10 March 2026.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of certification of service dated March 2026 received.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 (1) has been adequately addressed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

Non-Compliance Information

(c)
Although mechanical ventilation was provided in the nappy change and sanitary accommodation in the Chicks room, the air was stale and malodorous.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The nappy bins in the Chicks room will be changed every two hours to prevent the air becoming stale and Malodorous. Staff will regularly check bins.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 29 (c) has been adequately addressed.