

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH006
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Name of Service:	Tigers Childcare
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Address of Service:	Glen Abhainn, Enfield, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	A83 WF74
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	58	PM	35
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Meath Child & Parent Support Hub, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Cunningham & D Murray
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

The service provides full day care, part time and sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years and school aged care to children up to 12 years. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service is a purpose-built childcare facility consisting of two separate buildings located on the same site. Building 1 caters for children attending for full day care and Building 2 caters for children attending a sessional service staying on for full day care and also provides a school aged service. Building 1 consists of five care rooms namely Discoverers room 1, Discoverers room 2, Discoverers room 3, and Explorers room 1 and Explorers room 2. Building 2 consists of six care rooms for pre-school children, namely Active Cubs 1, Active Cubs 2, Active Cubs 3, Active Cubs 4, Active Cubs 5 and Active Cubs 6. Three additional rooms are available the opposite end of the building used exclusively for school aged children. Additional facilities in the service include a kitchen, dining area, sanitary facilities (nappy changing areas), sleep rooms and outdoor play areas in each building with adequate parking available to the front of the pre-school. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of both buildings.

Staffing

There are twenty six adults employed in the service including a manager, assistant manager, 17 childcare practitioners for preschool children, 3 staff who care for school aged children only, a kitchen assistant and 3 staff members who are on long-term statutory leave. Additionally, following commencement of the inspection the quality support manager arrived at the service at 10.30am and stayed for the remainder of the inspection. A relief centre support manager also attends the service to assist with the running of the service, who was not present on the day of 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:

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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/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19,20,21,22&23 as a result the scope of the inspection included rooms:

In **Building 1** the Discoverers Room 1(children from Discoverers room 2 were present in this room today).
Explorers room 1.

Rooms not included on this inspection in Building 1 were Discoverers Room 2 (not in use on the day of inspection),
Explorers Room 2 (closed today), Discoverers Room 3 (closed today).

In **Building 2** rooms not inspected were Active Cubs 6, Active Cubs 2 (closed today), and Active Cubs 5 (closed today). In building 2 rooms included were Active Cubs 1, Active Cubs 3, and Active Cubs 4.

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

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

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

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the manager, deputy manager, quality support manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection. Also, the registered provider and the quality support staff who joined remotely for feedback.

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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*

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

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

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

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required

(b) A designated person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to carry out the inspection.

Following discussion with the manager and review of the staff roster it was confirmed that 6 new staff members were employed since the last inspection on the 20th May 2025. These staff files were reviewed along with the quality support manager's file and the relief centre support manager's file. The remaining staff files met compliance at the end of the inspection process at the last inspection.

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(2) (a)&(b) Eighteen validated written references were available either from a past employer or from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures have been obtained for all staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.

(d) Police vetting was available for 5 staff members who had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) All childcare staff members had a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

(6)(A) Two staff members were employed under the Access and Inclusion Model.

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) There was an adequate number of staff available to work directly with the children on the day of the inspection. In order to maintain the adult:child ratio prescribed by the regulations, the service was required to close rooms and amalgamate rooms due to staffing shortages. It was noted that on the day of inspection that two of the five care rooms in building 1 were closed and two care rooms amalgamated. In building 2, of the six care rooms two were closed on the day of inspection.

(2) The following adult to child ratios were observed on the days of inspection:

Building 1

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Discoverers Room 1 and 2 combined: there was 2 staff members caring for 10 children ranging in age from 14 months to 18 months years attending the service on a full day care basis.

Discovers Room 3: Closed on the day of inspection.

Explorers Room 1 there were 3 staff members caring for 13 children ranging in age from 2 to 2 and a half years. All children attending the service on a full day care basis.

Explorers Room 2: Closed on the day of inspection.

Building 2.

Active Cubs 1 there was 2 staff members caring for 7 children ranging in age from 4 to 5 years. All children attending the service on a sessional service.

Active Cubs 2: Closed on the day of inspection.

Active Cubs 3: there was 1 staff member caring for 9 children ranging in age from 3 to 4 years, 6 children attending the service on a full day care basis with 3 children attending the sessional service.

Active Cubs 4 there was 2 staff members caring for 9 children ranging in age from 4 to 5 years, 6 children attending the service on a full day care basis with 3 children attending the sessional service.

Active Cubs 5: Closed on the day of inspection.

Active Cubs 6: there were 1 staff member caring for 10 children ranging in age from 4 to 5 years, 4 children were attending a part-time service, and 6 children were attending a sessional service.

Additionally, the manager and assistant manager was available to the care rooms when required.

(8) The registered provider ensured that there were always two adults on the premises when the service was in operation, as evidenced in the staff roster maintained in the service.

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

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Compliance Information

Basic Needs of the Infants and Children.

- During mealtimes staff were observed sitting at tables engaged in social conversation with the children. Staff assisted children to feed themselves and encouraging others to use their cutlery independently where appropriate.
- Nappy changing with the younger children was carried out regularly and promptly and children in the older care rooms were observed accessing the sanitary area independently. Staff were available to provide assistance, if required.
- Staff were noted to be sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviour, getting down to the child's level and explaining about turn taking with regards to play equipment and activities.
- The curriculum was child led with the children having a particular interest in "Planting" and the "Earth" with Sunflowers and Strawberries growing in tubs. The rooms accommodated visual displays demonstrating photographic illustrations to support and include all children in the programme of care. The adults followed the children's lead in the care rooms, and the children were supported in individual and group play.

Supporting Relationships Around the Children:

- Staff used appropriate tones of voice with the children and praised children on attempting and completing tasks.
- Individual care plans were available for children who required additional supervision and assistance.

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-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(b) Where no such space is provided, the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis to a suitable outdoor space.

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Compliance Information

(1)(b) Cosy areas consisting of mats, cushions and soft furnishings were available in all care rooms should a child needed to take a break from activities and rest. Children who required sleep slept on sleep mats in the Junior Pre-school room.

(3)(a) The outdoor areas were enclosed by walls and fencing with secure gates. The surface area consisted of artificial grass and paving bricks along with soft tiles. An enclosed area with 2 partially sheltered areas permitted outdoor play in all types of weather.

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.

Compliance Information

- There was a variety of play equipment and materials to support children's learning and development in each of the playrooms. Resources were grouped to create several different interest areas additional items were available in a separate storage area. The interest areas contained play resources that supported children's sensory and imaginary play and facilitated choice, independence and spontaneous play. These included construction areas, home corner/kitchen, baby care items, art areas and sensory play materials. A number of open shelving units contained items to support children's cognitive and fine motor development such as plastic blocks, jigsaws, peg bards and shape sorters.
- The outdoor areas had mud kitchens, tuff trays, ride on toys, tyres, see saws, footballs, bouncers and counting stands.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service had a 4-week menu plan for the children attending the full day care service with a variety of dishes ranging from meat, fish and poultry sourced from an external catering company and cooked on the premises. All children attending the sessional service brought their own lunch. On the day of inspection morning snack was served at 09:30am to 10.30am which was provided by parents. The main meal of the day was served at 11:30am in Building 1 and 12.30pm in Building 2 and consisted of vegetables, pasta and cheese or an alternative of turkey curry and rice was available. Evening tea was served at 15:00pm which consisted of fish fingers and bread. Additional snacks were available in the rooms of fruit, rice cakes and cracker bread for children staying after 3pm if required.

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:

- A secure bell operated system was in place at the entrance door to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The outdoor areas were secured and gated to protect the children within. The children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- The children's arrival and departure from the service was recorded on the electronic app.
- Medication and cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children

Infection Control:

- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined pedal operated bins.

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- The children washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, using the toilet and before mealtime.
- The nappy changing procedures was in accordance with the service's infection control policy.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) Records demonstrated that the date and time of attendance and departure in respect of each pre-school child is recorded on a daily basis.

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) Adults working in the service had a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available.

(b) The first aid box was available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

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

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 09/03/2026.
- (b) A record was maintained of the mains powered smoke alarms and firefighting equipment. The mains powered smoke alarm was last serviced on the 16/03/2026. The fire fighting equipment was last serviced in December 2025.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured for 150 children at any one time. The policy showed that the service was insured from 28/03/2026 to the 27/03/2027.