

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN053
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Name of Service:	Tiny's Day Nursery Ltd
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Address of Service:	Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	A75 TP40
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Linton
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	01/05/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	55	PM	38
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange Plantation Walk Monaghan
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader and S. McKenna
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Tiny's Daycare Nursery Ltd is a privately owned service which provides full day care, part- time and sessional care to pre-school children from 1 - 6 years. The maximum number of children that can be accommodated is 100 and the service operates from 07.00am – 6pm Monday to Friday.

The service operates from the converted basement of an industrial unit in the town of Castleblaney in Co. Monaghan. There is off street parking available for parental drop off and collection. There are 3 care rooms in operation namely Terrific Tigers Preschool Room, Marvelous Monkeys Baby and Toddler Room and Wonderful Wolves Preschool Room. Another room is used off the Marvelous Monkeys Room as a dining room. The ancillary accommodation consists of a kitchen, large sleep room and sanitary accommodations with nappy changing facilities.

In the afternoon a 4th room and the Terrific Tigers Room accommodate the school aged children and the preschool children from Terrific Tigers attending on a full day care basis join the children in the Wonderful Wolves Preschool Room. There is an outdoor play area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

The service employs 18 staff, 12 of whom including the registered provider work directly with the preschool children. Four staff are employed to work with the school aged children - 1 as service cook who also carries out school runs and 1 as cleaner.

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/ safety/ 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.

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*
- (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.

(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 system in place to designate a named deputy person to deputise as required. The deputy person in charge was on the premises when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service. The person in charge arrived back to the service shortly after the inspectors arrived.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service and staff were familiar with the rotational deputy person in charge system that was in place.

The staff files for all staff members were reviewed on the last inspection and met compliance. The staff files for the 3 staff members who had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection were reviewed. In addition Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff members.

(2)(a) & (b)

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

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda vetting disclosure was available for the 3 new staff members. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all other staff members and were found to be within the re-vetting timeframes.

(d) Not applicable as following a review of the staff files presented on the day of inspection, international police vetting was not required as none of the new staff members had resided outside the jurisdiction for a period of greater than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the 1 member of staff, who worked directly with the pre-school children held at least the minimum required level 5 Childcare Qualification. A qualification was not

required for the other 2 staff members. Staff files for the other staff members who worked directly with the preschool children were reviewed previously and met the compliance requirement at that time.

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

(2) On the day of inspection when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service there were 3 rooms in operation and the following adult: child ratios were observed:

- In the Terrific Tigers there were 19 children aged 3 to 5 years 1 month with 3 staff members.
- In the Wonderful Wolves there were 18 preschool children aged 3 to 4 years 9 months with 4 staff members.
- In the Marvelous Monkeys there were 18 children aged 1 year 3 months to 2 years 6 months with 3 staff. A 4th adult returned to the room from their break at 10.30am.

In addition, there was 1 member of staff present from 9.30am – 4.30pm employed as cook, who also completed the school collections.

A further member of staff was present as cleaner.

(8)(a) Following a review of the available documentation e.g. staff rotas and children’s attendance records, the information demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that there were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

1. When the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service in the Marvelous Monkeys there were 18 preschool children aged 1 year 3 months to 2 years and 6 months with 3 staff members. Four members of staff were required. It is acknowledged that a fourth member of staff returned to the room at approximately 10.30am as they had been on their break from 10 – 10.30am.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A whole nursery approach will be adapted to ensure short breaks are covered efficiently to ensure ratio's are kept correct at all times.

All staff breaks are on the team rota and cover is added for all breaks.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of sample staff rota.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response. The non-compliance has been 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, and

Compliance Information

There were 3 rooms in operation on the day of inspection namely the Terrific Tigers, Marvelous Monkeys and Wonderful Wolves.

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

Basic needs:

- The staff in all the care rooms were observed sitting with the children as they played with their toys of choice which were laid out and accessible to the children.
- The children were observed to move freely in the care rooms and the smaller children were supported by the staff and all children had a change of environment to the outdoor area.
- Child-led sleep needs were facilitated in the service as the staff followed the children's routines and also were alert to signs of tiredness displayed by the children. Children were observed sleeping when the inspectors arrived at the service and throughout the day.
- Nappies were observed to be changed regularly and in a timely manner in the Marvelous Monkey's and Wonderful Wolves rooms with pleasant interactions observed between children and staff.
- The dinner on the day of inspection was homemade chicken curry, mixed peppers and rice. The dinner was of an age-appropriate consistency for the children attending the different rooms and the peppers were served as finger food. There were extra portions of dinner available for any child who wanted more and an alternative dinner option was available for any child who did not eat curry. Morning and afternoon snacks were provided by the parents and perishable food items were stored in the fridges. Drink cups were available to the children.
- The children were dressed appropriately to go outside and attention was given to personal care such as the use of bibs for feeding and cleaning faces of the smaller children after their dinners. Children were observed to wear oversized t-shirts to protect their own clothing during a blossom tree painting activity in the Wonderful Wolves room. Spare clothing was available if changes were required.
- Transitions in the Marvelous Monkeys Room between activities, to go outside or return inside for dinner were swift, calm and ran smoothly. A child who was settling in was supported with activities and was observed to happily seek out a staff member to go outside with their peers.

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) There was 1 cot room adjacent to the Terrific Tigers Room with 12 cots for those children under 2 years of age who required a sleep and 8 daybeds set up for the children over the age of 2 who also required a sleep. Additional daybeds and cots were available if required.

There were cushions and a number of mats on the floor in the Marvelous Monkeys Room for children to sit and relax on.

Soft seating and cushions for children to rest and relax were also available and observed in use in both the Wonderful Wolves and Terrific Tigers rooms.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A storage unit containing cleaning solutions in the sanitary area located off the Terrific Tigers room was observed to be unlocked. The children were observed to use the sanitary area independently, which poses a potential risk of harm to a child.

Infection Control:

2. Children's soothers were observed inappropriately stored loosely in a basket in the sleep room. In addition, they were not named. This is an infection control and cross contamination risk.
3. The soft child sized seating in the Wonderful Wolves room had spilt at a seam which exposed foam. The surface was not smooth to ensure it could be adequately cleaned, therefore posing an infection control risk.

Safe Sleep:

4. One child under the age of 2 years of age was observed sleeping on a daybed instead of in a cot. This is a health and safety risk and at variance with best safe sleep practice.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A lock has been added to the store cupboard in the Terrific Tigers sanitary area.
All staff (Including cleaning and kitchen staff) have been reminded about how important it is to keep this cupboard locked at all times.

Infection Control:

2. New soother boxes were purchased and labelled with all the children's names. Soothers are only to be stored in the child's own labelled box.
3. The soft seating with the seam split was removed from the Wonderful Wolves. Staff were reminded that rips in soft furnishings should be reported on daily risk assessments.

Safe Sleep:

4. The child in question was returned to a cot for 2 weeks until their 2nd birthday. Staff were reminded that they must wait until the child's birthday, children cannot sleep on day beds until they turn 2.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence

Infection Control:

Photographic evidence

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The non-compliances in Regulation 23 have been addressed. Implementation of corrective and preventative actions detailed will be assessed at 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

(2)(a) and (b) A first aid box was available to the preschool children.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not ensure that there was a person trained in First Aid Response (FAR) for children, on the premises during the following times i.e. during the staff members hour lunch break Monday – Thursday, half hour break Friday and from 5pm – 6pm on a Friday.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) The service provider completed FAR training since the last inspection. A reminder has been set up on the nursery phone for 2 months previous to all FAR certs expiring.

Supporting documentation submitted:

Documentary evidence of course completion submitted via email from course provider.

Summary Comment

The Inspectorate have reviewed the registered provider's response and supporting documentation. The non-compliances in Regulation 25 have been addressed. Sustainment of corrective and preventative actions detailed will be assessed at the next inspection.

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 record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service, the last recorded 11/4/25.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment dated 18/2/25 and 10/4/25 respectively.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were 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

Documentary evidence was available of adequate insurance cover for up to 100 children expiring on 27/3/26.