

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015OY064
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Name of Service:	Little Angels Childcare Limited
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Address of Service:	19 Carrig Aoibhinn, Carrickhall Close, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
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Eircode:	R45 HV25
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Name of Registered Providers:	Aisling Cully, Carolyn Hogan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	14/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	32
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus, Springfield, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC.
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan, F. Maher.
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable.
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Description of service

Little Angels Childcare Ltd is registered as a full day care service with a capacity for 99 pre-school children aged between 1 – 6 years. The service is open from 7:00am – 18:15 hours, Monday to Friday. A registered school age childcare service is also provided.

The service is located in a purpose-built detached premises within a housing estate in Edenderry. There are four care rooms, a sleep room, a kitchen, an office and a staff room. A large outdoor play area is located at the side and rear of the premises. A covered play area with direct access from the Toddler room is available to the preschool children attending this room.

Staffing

On the day of the inspection sixteen staff members were present, eleven staff members, the relief staff member and a student on placement were working directly with the children. One of the registered providers was present for the duration of the inspection. The second registered provider was working in a sister service in Clogherinkoe for the morning and arrived in the service later. Both were available to provide additional support to the care rooms where needed. The cook was present also. All staff working directly with children hold a qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under.

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1),(2),(8)(a) – Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety.
- Regulation 27 – Supervision.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.

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 providers, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge the files of fourteen staff and one student were assessed.

(2)

(a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of fourteen adults employed and one student on work placement whose records were reviewed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) Fourteen adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher or a recognised equivalent qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

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)(a) There were sixty children attending the service being supervised directly by thirteen staff members during the inspection. The registered providers and a relief staff member were available to provide support and assistance to the rooms as required throughout the day.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to during the day as specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times for the duration of the inspection, this was verified by the up-to-date staff roster.

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 main entrance door to the service was electronically secured and controlled by staff to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school service. Daily indoor room and outdoor risk assessments were completed and maintained to ensure a safe play and work environment for the children and staff.

Staff members in each room advised the inspector they would remove any beaded necklace if observed that a child may be wearing them to mitigate any potential risk of harm to the child.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents which were inaccessible to the children.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper hand towel, hygienically dispensed from wall mounted units, were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying and handwashing routines were well established and observed.

Foot pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of used nappies, tissues, paper towel and waste. Plastic aprons, disposable gloves and nappy sacks were available for hygienic nappy change practices. Written cleaning schedules were maintained for the room environments and cleaning staff were engaged for deep cleaning at the weekend.

Administration of Medication:

Medicine was not given at the time of the inspection; written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. The staff members were familiar with the required practices when administering medication safely in the service. Temperature reducing medication was available in the service if required and safely stored. No child attending the pre-school service required emergency medicine.

Safe Sleep:

The staff members were familiar with current safe sleep guidance and practice. Ten-minute sleep check observations were completed on all sleeping children and records maintained of the colour, position and breathing

pattern of sleeping children. The environmental temperature of the sleep room was maintained between 18° - 22° Celsius, this was facilitated with openable windows, and a portable air-cooling unit.

Fire Safety:

The emergency exits were kept clear to ensure the prompt evacuation of children in the event of an emergency occurring. Staff outlined the evacuation routes taken from each room to the inspector and the assembly point designated for each group. Regular monthly fire drills were recorded.

Outing:

Outings do not take place from the service; this was confirmed by the registered providers.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. The nappy change practices required to be reviewed as it was observed that the single use disposable apron and disposable gloves were not removed following the bagging up of the soiled nappy. Soiled nappies, used aprons and used disposable gloves need to be disposed of at the same time following removal of the old nappy for best infection control practices.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The nappy changing policy has been reviewed to comply with regulatory standards. Onsite refresher training for all staff to include demonstration completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. Documentation.

Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered providers has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance has been met for regulation 23. This area of practice will be assessed at the next inspection.

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.
- (2) Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.
- (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.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered providers 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.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a)(b) The registered providers ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained. The inspectors' visit to the service was documented in the visitor's book on arrival.
- (4) The registered providers confirmed that the records were retained in storage for the required period.

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) Persons were trained First Aid Response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in conspicuous positions throughout the service.
 - (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available at all times to the adults caring for the children attending the service.

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 firefighting 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 written record was available of fire drills in the service; the last recorded fire drill took place 23 September 2025.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and fire detection system in the premises, and both were last serviced on 22 September 2025.
- (4)
- Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The children were observed being supervised at all times throughout the inspection by the adults caring for them including, indoors in their care rooms, while in the outdoor play areas, when using the sanitary facilities, washing hands in their care room as needed, during snack and mealtimes and during sleep times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2026. The insurance provided cover for 100 children.