

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY157				
Name of Service:	Treasure Island Childcare Ltd				
Address of Service:	16 Kickham Street, Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary				
Eircode:	E32 FV40				
Name of Registered Provider:	Sheila Power				
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional				
Date of Inspection:	09/07/2025				
No of pre-school children:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AM</td> <td>18</td> <td>PM</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </table>	AM	18	PM	15
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	13 Market Place, Mallow, Co Cork P51DD5Y				
Inspection undertaken by:	B Fraher				
Title:	Early Years Inspector				

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	N/A
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Description of service

Treasure Island Childcare Ltd is a full day care community early years service, located in a community resource centre building in the town of Carrick-on-Suir in county Tipperary. The service is presently open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 17:30 catering for children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The premises was previously a terraced house which was specifically designed for a childcare centre and later had an extension to the rear of the building. The service consists of four early years rooms, a sleep room, changing room and a laundry room. A staff office and kitchen are located on the first floor of the premises. The outdoor play areas are adjacent to the early years rooms and are divided into four areas.

Staffing

There were nine adults employed in the service. The registered provider is not serviced based.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulations 9 Management and recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing levels, Regulation 16 Records in relation to a pre-school service, Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child, Regulation 24

Checking in and out and records of attendance and Regulation 28 Insurance; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 27 Supervision. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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.

Additional Information

The locking mechanism on the fire exit doors was identified as posing a potential safety risk and a referral was made to the fire officer.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, person in charge and staff and 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) The service had a designated person in charge on the day of inspection and a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.
 - (b) The deputy was on duty at the service when the inspector arrived and the person in charge arrived soon after. The staff roster indicated that either the person in charge or the deputy was on duty at all times during the hours of operation.

- (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to 10 adults, 9 of whom were employed in the service and the registered provider were the subject of inspection.
- (a) Of the 20 required references, 12 were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
- (b) Of the 20 required references, 8 were from a source other than a past employer with required records of validation on file.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were obtained and were on file for the 10 staff. The person in charge was aware of the re-vetting timeframes outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
- (d) Police vetting was required for 2 of the 10 adults as they lived outside of the state for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) The nine adults who worked directly with the children held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at the time.

(2) The adult to child ratio were observed to meet the minimum requirement over the duration of the inspection.

The ratio was as follows:

- The Little Toddler Green room had seven children being cared for by three adults in the morning and five children being cared for by three adults in the afternoon.
- The Play-School Orange room had 11 children being cared for by 2 adults in the morning and 10 children being cared for by 3 adults in the afternoon.
- The Toddler Yellow room and the Play-School Blue room were not in use on the day of inspection.

(8)

(a) The service operated with at least two adults at all times. This was observed on the day of inspection and was evident through examination of the staff roster.

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;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(1) The following records were reviewed:

- (i) The staff roster for the week of inspection was available for assessment. The roster outlined the names and start and finish times for the staff members on a daily basis.
- (j) A sample of 10 accidents and incidents were reviewed, completed and contained all relevant information.
- (k) A sample of 10 medication records were assessed and were observed to be complete and contained all relevant information.

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

On the day of inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation and discussion with the staff and examination of relevant documents.

Basic needs:

- The layout of the two care rooms inspected supported the children to move freely within their environments and to engage in their chosen tasks.
- Food was provided by the parents and was stored in a refrigerator and heated in the services kitchen as required. The food observed was healthy and nutritious. Examples of food served for dinner was pasta, mince meat, vegetables, fish fingers, chicken and potatoes and for snacks there were yogurts, cheese, rice cakes, fruit and sandwiches.
- Drinking water was readily available throughout the care rooms and during outdoor play.
- Appropriate seating was available in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- Children had unrestricted access to the toilet from the Play-School Orange room and were observed accessing the sanitary facilities independently with the supervision of the adults. Those who were toilet training in the Toddler Yellow room were assisted as needed to use the sanitary facilities following a plan completed in partnership with the children's parents.
- The individual sleep needs of the children were met, and this was observed on the day of inspection when a child's need to sleep was facilitated in the designated sleep room. Both care rooms had rest areas with soft furnishing and couches provided.
- Outdoor play was promoted and observed at the time of inspection with the adults observing and assisting children during play. The inspector observed children playing in a tunnel, a playhouse, with a sand table and on bikes.
- The weather on the day of inspection was hot and the adults were observed to apply sun cream to the children and ensure they wore sun hats outdoors.

- Regular nappy changes were observed to be carried out in the changing room; adults were noted to interact sensitively with the children at this time.
- In conversation, the adults stated that the service communicated with parents and guardians by phone, text message, email or face to face at drop off or collection.

Supporting relationships:

- During mealtimes, the adults remained with the children to assist as required. The children were given adequate time to enjoy their food, and the staff were observed chatting with the children during mealtimes.
- The adults were observed to be warm and caring in their interactions with the children. For example, the adults were observed comforting a child who was upset by speaking to them in a gentle tone while offering reassurance.
- The adults were observed encouraging positive behaviour. This was observed when an adult encouraged children to take turns when a child took another child's toy.
- The adults were observed to sit with the children and interact with them through play, art, song and storytelling which supported positive relationships with the children and language development.
- Family photos were displayed on the walls indoors. This promoted a sense of belonging.

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 door was secured appropriately. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and prevent the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The windows in the care room were adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- The outdoor area was segregated into smaller areas with fencing. It was observed to be a safe and secure space for the children with walls and a metal gate. This prevented children gaining unsupervised access to an unsafe area.

- The equipment used in the outdoor area was in good condition and was able to be stored inside when not in use.
- There was no cables or trailing flexes accessible to the children on the day of inspection.

Infection control:

- Handwashing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Children were observed to wash their hands before meals and after using the sanitary facilities.
- Lidded pedal bins were in use for the disposal of waste in the sanitary area and the care rooms.
- Children's coats and bags were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available in each room for the storage of perishable foods.
- The children's nappies, wipes and barrier creams were maintained in a clearly labelled storage area.

Administration of medication:

- The inspector did not observe the administration of medication on the day of inspection. Staff informed the inspector that consent for administration of temperature reducing medication had been obtained on the enrolment form and two staff signed for this after parental consent was gained.
- One child was on medication if needed and a plan was in place for the administration of this.

Safe sleep:

- The air temperature of the designated sleep room was recorded at 21.9°C. There was one child asleep at the time. The room temperatures were maintained at the required temperature of between 18°C and 22°C for children above 12 months.
- Staff were noted to maintain sleep records in relation to children's, colour, breathing and position at 6 to 10-minute intervals. The inspector reviewed 10 sleep records, and these were recorded to be carried out correctly.

Fire safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.
- Fire extinguishers were secured to the walls.

Outing:

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The person in charge informed the inspector that occasionally walks are taken around the estate with a risk assessment completed prior to this occurring. The risk assessments for the last two outings were reviewed and had a number of strategies in place to mitigate identified risks to the children.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection control:

- During four observed nappy changing procedures, the following practices were noted in one or more of the changes which posed a risk of contamination and cross infection and was not in line with the services nappy changing policy.
 - The nappy changing area was not adequately cleaned between use.
 - The child's or adult's hands were not washed after nappy change.
 - The staff member removed gloves and proceeded to handle two door handles with unwashed hands to exit the changing room and enter the care room.

Fire safety:

- The locking mechanism on the fire exit doors was identified as posing a potential safety risk and a referral was made to the fire officer.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was received from the designated person in charge:

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection control:

- Staff reviewed the steps involved in the nappy changing procedure and the designated person in charge plans to complete random checks to ensure this is adhered to.

Fire safety:

- The service has liaised with Tipperary County Council fire officer, and a date has been obtained for completing the required work for fire safety. The fire officer is to return to the service to review the completed work.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection control:

- The statement from the designated person in charge has been accepted.

Fire safety:

- Correspondence between the service, the fire officer and quotations for the work required were received in the office of the inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23. This will be reviewed on 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.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

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

Compliance Information

(1) The attendance sheet was available in which the inspector observed that all of the children present on the day had their check in and out times completed for the duration of the inspection.

(3)

(b) A daily record of visitors to the premises was kept in a notebook in the reception area. The inspectors were requested to signed in and out from 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.

Non-Compliance Information

On entering the sleep room at 13:06, it was noted by the inspector that two children aged between 2 and 3 years were sleeping on floor beds unsupervised. It is acknowledged that a monitor was in place and staff entered the room between every 6 to 10 minutes to perform sleep checks. This level of supervision is inadequate and posed a risk to children's safety and wellbeing.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was received from the designated person in charge:

Corrective and Preventive Action

A staff member has been assigned to the room when children are sleeping and this practice will continue.

Supporting documentation submitted

The statement from the designated person in charge is accepted.

Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted by the designated person in charge has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 27.

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 services was adequately insured. The insurance policy commenced on 28 March 2025 and will expire on 27 March 2026.