

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS014
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Name of Service:	Laugh and Learn
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Address of Service:	Block H, Glenn na Heorna, Cookstown Way, Springfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 HC6P
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mridul Sharma
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	12/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Level 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	R Phillips
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

Laugh and Learn is a privately run early years' service that provides sessional childcare for children from 2-6 years of age. The service currently operates two sessions per day from 09:30-12:30, and 13:00-16:00 Monday to Friday 38 weeks per year. The service is located in a purposely adapted ground floor premises within a building managed by Respond housing association in Tallaght, south county Dublin.

Staffing

The service currently employs six staff including the registered provider, a manager and four childcare practitioners, all of whom have at least level five childcare qualification or equivalent. The registered provider and person in charge were present on the day of inspection. Two members of staff are employed to reduce the adult to child ratio, in posts which are funded by the Minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme

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 (1)(2)(4) Management and recruitment,
- 11(1)(3) Staffing levels,
- 15(1)(a)-(i), (3)(c) Records of a preschool child,

19 (1)(a) Health Welfare and Development of the child,
23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First Aid, and
26 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c) (4) Fire Safety measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15(1)(a)-(i), (3)(c) Records of a preschool child. A sample of ten enrolment forms were inspected.

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 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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
 - (b) The service manager and deputy were onsite for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived shortly after the inspector and remained for the rest of the inspection.
- (2) Staff files for all staff were examined. Excluding the registered provider, all the staff started working in the service since the last inspection on 19 October 2023.
- (a)(b) There were ten written validated references from previous employers, and two written validated references from reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all six staff members. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years regulatory notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Five staff files contained international police vetting certificates required when an adult resides outside the Irish jurisdiction for six consecutive months or longer.

(4) Certificates of qualifications in each staff file, provided evidence that every adult employed to work directly with the children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum level 5 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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were five adults working directly with 15 children during the inspection.

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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 10 registration records for children were reviewed. The information required was documented as outlined below:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dairy preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.

- (g) The name and telephone number of the child’s medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parental consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

(3)(c) The above records were made readily available for inspection.

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

Basic Needs:

The service promotes healthy eating. The children brought lunch from home. The staff sat with the children as they ate, engaging in conversation as they enjoyed their food in a relaxed atmosphere.

The children’s water bottles were available to them at all times in the classroom.

A suitable sanitary area was available to the children to use independently, under the supervision of the staff who also supervised the children’s transition to and from the sanitary area.

Supporting Relationships:

It was evident that the service was part of the local community. There was a family wall with the children’s family photos displayed at eye level to maintain the connection to home and foster a sense of belonging in the service.

There were photos displayed at the children’s eye level of the local primary schools.

Child profile forms gave staff information about likes/dislikes, daily routine, and family. Teamwork was evident in how staff communicated about children’s individual needs.

The staff displayed warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children. The manager updates parents regularly via a messaging application regarding the children’s activities and achievements.

Materials and Equipment:

There were ample toys and play materials available to the children on low level shelving. There were three tables with low level chairs for group activities and meals.

The children engaged in a choice of activities including sensory play with modelling dough or pasta shapes. There was a dressing up area, with costumes in good condition hanging at the children's eye level. There were clearly defined interest areas.

All the children had the opportunity to play outside. There was soft fall and artificial grass covering the ground, a climbing frame, slide, seesaw to promote gross motor development. There were a playhouse and toys to promote both fine and gross motor development as well as imaginative play such as a garage and vehicles and skittles and balls.

Programme of Activities:

The daily routine was displayed on the wall. The adults interacted with the children promoting their language development on a one-to-one level as well as in group activities singing songs and playing games.

Plans for activities based on children's emerging interests was facilitated in the service as evidenced by plans documented by the staff.

It was evident from observation of circle time and other activities that an ethos of inclusivity is strong among the staff operating the service.

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

The inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider, manager of the service and staff had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance doors and outdoor area were appropriately secured preventing children from exiting the premises unsupervised and prevented unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.

The toys and equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Cleaning agents were appropriately stored on high level shelving in rooms the children didn't have access to.

Infection Control:

The children washed their hands after using the toilet and before eating, to prevent cross contamination.

There was thermostatically controlled warm water which didn't exceed the safe maximum temperature of 43°C., and liquid soap and paper towels available in the sanitary areas and at the sink in the classroom.

There were signed cleaning schedules in place, for the classroom, sanitary areas, kitchen and toys.

Administration of Medication:

In discussion with staff there are no children attending currently requiring medication as part of a care plan.

There are medicine administration records available to use, but the staff haven't required same recently as they don't administer medication in the sessional service.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were signposted and unobstructed throughout the service.

The fire assembly point was signposted and easily identified outside the service.

Emergency evacuation procedures were visible throughout the service.

Outing:

The registered provider confirmed that the service doesn't bring the children on outings.

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)

Three people with in-date First Aid Responder (FAR) training certificates were present throughout the inspection. Discussion with the staff and review of the staff roster indicated that there is always someone with FAR training available to the children in the service.

(2)

(a) (b) A first aid box was safely stored above the sink in the classroom, a conspicuous location in the service.

This was fully stocked. There was further stock in the storeroom.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
 - (b) an employee, and
 - (c) an authorised person.
- (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 available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed the last fire drill had taken place on 22 October 2025.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on 23 September 2025, and that maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system was last carried out on 23 September 2025.
- (2) (c) The records were made available for inspection.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service.