

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2016DY033

Name of Service: Little Monkeys Playschool

Address of Service: 273 Glasnevin Avenue, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

Eircode: D11 V623

Name of Registered Provider: Carol English

Service type: Sessional

Date of Inspection: 24/09/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K.
Inspection undertaken by:	C Kerrigan
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	Not applicable.
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Description of service

Little Monkeys Playschool was established in 2013. It is one of two services run by the registered provider. The service offers sessional childcare to children aged between 2-6 years old. The service operates from 9:30am to 12:30 pm Monday to Friday, 38 weeks of the year. The service is also registered to provide school aged services from this premises. The service is located in a converted residential property in Dublin 11. The premises consist of two care rooms, namely ECCE Year 1 room which is located on the ground floor and caters for children from 2-4 years, and ECCE Year 2 room is located on the first floor and caters for children aged 4-5 years. There are sanitary facilities located off each care room. There is a fully enclosed outdoor area to the rear of the property.

Staffing

The registered provider employs five adults to work directly with the children; the registered provider works in a relief capacity within the service. On the day of Inspection there were five adults present providing direct care to the children within the service. The registered provider arrived in the service at 10:50am to help facilitate the 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:

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 (j)(k) Record in relation to pre-school service. The scope of the inspection included 1st Year and 2nd Year ECCE rooms.

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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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 registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that the person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The files of six adults working within the service to include the registered provider were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that eleven written and validated references were available from a previous employer the adults working within the service.

- (b) The registered provider ensured that one written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and the five staff members who work directly with children. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) The registered provider ensured that police vetting was obtained for two adults who had resided in a state other than Ireland for a period longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that all references and Garda vetting procedures were completed prior to the six adults working within the service being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) The registered provider and the five adults who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualification Framework.

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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day of inspection. Six early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of seventeen children who were present on the day of inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in 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:

(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.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (j) On the day of inspection there was no medication administration records available for review since the last inspection on the 1 September 2021, however the registered provider ensured that a medication administration record was available within the service when needed.
- (k) A sample of ten accident and incident records were reviewed and eight were found to be completed with all necessary details included.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection on the premises by the inspector.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (k) The registered provider did not ensure that two of the ten accident and incident records sampled were complete, the following was omitted:
- Two of the children’s records sampled were missing a parental signature, this posed a risk to parents not being aware of an accident or incident involving their child and may potentially impact future care.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)

(k) The registered provider has stated that they asked the parents to sign the incident report and gave a copy of the report to them. Once the school was finished that day the registered provider held a meeting demonstrating to all staff how forms are to be completed in the future. The registered provider also stated that they explained the importance of the forms being filled out correctly and parents signing them promptly. The registered provider will check the book daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The preventative and corrective actions submitted by the registered provider have been sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 16 (1)(k).

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

(1)

(a) The registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and wellbeing is facilitated within the service in the following ways.

Basic Needs

- The children were provided with lunch during their time in the service, which was prepared at home and brought into the service. On the day of inspection children were observed to have a selection of sandwiches, various fruits appropriately cut, crackers and cheeses. Children drank from their own water bottles. The service had a Healthy Eating Policy, and this was reflected in the food choices on the day. Mealtimes were observed to be social and pleasurable experience for the children, at a pace that best suited the children's pace.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- A number of children in the service were observed to be toilet trained. Toileting was undertaken as needed with children observed to have free access to the toilet. Adults were observed to encourage a child's independence in toileting, but assistance was given when needed.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a warm and professional manner, a key worker system is in place within the service, a key worker system allows staff to develop in depth knowledge about the children in their group and fosters nurturing relationships helping children to feel connected and confident.
- Adults in the service were observed to speak to each other in a professional and respectful manner.
- The service utilises a mobile application to communicate with parents on topics such as toileting, activities and food. Learning journals are also in use within the service, these are given to parents at stages throughout the year bridging the gap between home and preschool.

Physical and Material Environment

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for children attending with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- There was a range of equipment available to include arts and crafts, a home corner with associated props to facilitate imaginative play experiences, stacking, connecting, problem solving and threading toys to facilitate fine motor and problem-solving play, books were available to facilitate language and early literacy development.
- Images of the children and personalised artwork were on display in each room, giving a sense of connection and achievement.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment throughout the day. This is scheduled but also available to children if they need it. This had absorbent artificial flooring, mud kitchens, ride on toys, and sensory walls. The area had a secured football area, with an outdoor room available for children with a selection of sandpits and construction materials, giving an array of gross motor and sensory play options.

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 to the service was secure upon the inspector's unannounced arrival at the service. Access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The ambient room temperature in the service was kept between the recommended 18-22°C.
- Foods that were of a high risk of choking were observed to be cut into smaller developmentally appropriate shapes.
- The outdoor area was fully secured and enclosed with high walls and fencing.

Infection Control:

- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing potential cross contamination.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service for hand drying purposes, ensuring good handwashing practices.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications are not routinely given within the service, but staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.

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 trained in first aid to include First Aid Response (FAR) were available to children during the operational hours of the service.

(2)

- (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position within the premises.
- (b) The first aid box was readily available to the adults caring for the children attending the pre-school 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 fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 5 September 2025.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced on the 9 August 2025, and the number type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, these were last serviced on the 6 August 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the inspector, these were displayed in the hallway.
- (4) A notice of procedures was displayed within the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

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 premise was insured as a full day care service for the maximum number of children registered. The certificate viewed had an expiry date of 27 March 2026.