

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2016DY035

**Name of Service:** Safari Childcare (Rathmines)

**Address of Service:** The Park Building, William Park, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

**Eircode:** D06 V0V2

**Name of Registered Provider:** Cian Powell, Kevin McGuinness

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 13/02/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	74	PM	45
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15   D15 CF9K
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Kerrigan and E Griffin
<b>Title:</b>	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

### Description of service

Safari Childcare Rathmines is a privately operated full day care service located in a residential area in Dublin 6. The service currently registered to open from 07:30 to 18:30, Monday to Friday and can cater for up to 100 children aged from 1-6 years of age. The service is comprised of eight care rooms, a cot room, sanitary facilities, and a kitchen. The care rooms include Wobbler 1, Wobbler 2, Toddler 1, Preschool 1, Preschool 2, ECCE 1, ECCE 2 and ECCE 3. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme. An outdoor area is located on an enclosed balcony on the first floor of the building. Children from the ECCE and Preschools rooms also have access to a larger outdoor area to the front of the building.

### Staffing

The registered providers employ twenty-three staff. On the day of inspection there were twenty-three staff rostered and present on the premises, twenty working directly with the children, two managers who were available for support if required, and a chef. Two students were also present on the day of inspection, working in a supernumerary capacity. The registered providers do not work in the service or directly with the children.

### 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 focused on an examination of compliance under the following.

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4). Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8)(a) Staffing levels.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a) Health, Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.
- Regulation 25 (1)(2)(a)(b) First Aid.
- Regulation 28 Insurance.
- Regulation 29 Premises.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included, Wobbler 1 and Wobbler 2 rooms, Toddler 1 and Preschool 1.

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

An Immediate Action Notice (IAN) was issued to the registered provider on the day of inspection under Regulation 23, in relation to an identified safety risk. Immediate action was taken by the person in charge which mitigated the risk. Further details are available under Regulation 23.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the two managers 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.*

*(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.
  - (b) A review of the roster showed that a named person in charge or the deputy is rostered to be on the premises at all times during the service opening hours.
  - (c) (c)There was a clear management structure within the service, this was clearly displayed on the wall in the hallway.
- (2) A review of paperwork and conversation with management showed that nine staff have commenced employment in the service since the last inspection in April 2024. The files of these staff along with two student files were reviewed in full.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that nineteen written and verified references were available from a past employer in relation to eleven adults working within the service.
  - (b) The registered provider ensured that three written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer in relation to three adults working within the service.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for eleven adults working within 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 in relation to seven adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) The references for all adults and garda vetting procedures for ten adults were completed prior to the adults being allowed access or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that eight adults who worked directly with the children held 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.

## Non-Compliance Information

- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that the garda vetting procedures were completed prior to one staff member having access to children within the service. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in

April 2024 the corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider have not been sufficient to prevent recurrence.

- (4) The registered provider did not ensure that there was evidence available to show that one adult who worked directly with children held 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.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

- (3) The registered provider has stated that a garda vetting form has now been attached to job offer forms and employment will commence when garda vetting disclosure have been obtained. Garda vetting will be reviewed at staff introduction.
- (4) The registered provider has stated that this staff member is moving to after school care and that staff qualifications will be checked with the DCEDIY list prior to staff commencing employment.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

No supporting documentation was received.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have been sufficient to meet the non-compliances under Regulation 9. Regulatory compliance has been met.

### 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) The registered provider ensured an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. On the day of inspection 21 adults were available to meet the care needs of 74 children who were present within the service.

(2) The registered provider ensured that ratios were maintained at all times throughout the day for example;

- In Wobbler room 1 two adults were caring for five children aged 1-1 year 8 months years old.
- In Wobbler room 2 two adults were caring for ten children aged 1 year 9 months-2years 5 months old.
- In Toddler room 1 two adults were caring for five children aged 2-3 years old.
- In Preschool room 1 four adults were caring for sixteen children aged 3-4 years old.
- In Preschool room 2 two adults were caring for sixteen children aged 3-5 years old.
- In ECCE room 1 three adults were caring for nine children aged 3-4 years old.
- In ECCE room 2 two adults were caring for eight children aged 4-5 years old.
- In ECCE room 3 two adults were caring for five children aged 4-5 years old.

Two service managers were available throughout the day to offer support in the rooms as required.

(8) (a) A review of the rosters available and through conversation with the adults present, the registered provider ensured that there were at least two adults present in the service during its operational hours.

### 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 the child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service in the following ways:

#### Basic Needs:

- Children were provided with regular meals including a hot meal and snacks which was prepared by an on-site chef. On the morning of the inspection children in the care rooms were observed being served a snack of fresh cut fruit and a drink of water. A hot lunch was served later on in the day and consisted of rice and vegetables, pasta was offered as an alternative to children who refused the rice dish, and staff reported this is the procedure when a child does not eat the meal offered. The transition to mealtime was observed to be a timely experience for the children, at a pace suited to their needs.
- Nappy changing was completed on a regular basis, and this was observed to be a timely, pleasant experience with warm respectful interactions observed.
- Sleep was observed to be in line with children's need for sleep, there was a cot room available with a sufficient number of cots and low beds to allow for this. There was a rest area available in the care rooms if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. Appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication such as low tones, eye level contact, touch and other strategies were observed. This was in line with the behaviour management policy which was displayed in the rooms. These strategies can facilitate emotional and social development in young children.
- All children availed of outdoor play on the day of inspection.

#### Supporting Relationships:

- Staff reported that information such as toileting, food, and sleep is recorded in paper form and shared with parents via a software application, conversations are also held at drop off and collection times. These updates keep parents informed about the daily life of their child.

- Adults within the service spoke to each other in a respectful and professional manner, demonstrating to children, positive interactions.
- Displays depicting children's families and communities were evident on the walls of the care rooms, supporting children's development of identity and feelings of belonging.

### **Physical and material environment:**

- The furniture provided in the room was low level and appropriate for the developmental age of the children attending. Toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- The range of equipment available included mark making, a home corner with associated props, small world areas to facilitate imaginative play experiences, jigsaws, stacking, building, connecting and threading toys to facilitate creative play, cars and tracks for transporting and books to facilitate language and early literacy development.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment. With older children accessing a larger green space to the front of the service, this allowed a sense of freedom of movement and development of play. Younger children used an outdoor area which a selection of scooters, climbing frames and playhouse encouraging gross motor skills and development.

## 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.
- The outdoor area within the service was fully secured and enclosed with a high wall, children who accessed the larger outdoor area to the front of the service were observed to be well supervised with children wearing fluorescent vests to increase visibility and safety.
- There were no trailing flexes and televisions were mounted out of reach of children.
- Changing Units were sturdy and secure for children being changed.

##### Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary areas. Handwashing practices in the rooms sampled were consistent with the service policy and in line with best practice, children were observed getting their hands washed prior to meals, after toileting and as needed.
- Pedal operated bins were available in care rooms for the safe disposal of contaminated items.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing potential cross contamination.

##### Administration of Medication:

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

##### Safe Sleep:

- The temperature in the rooms where children over the age of 1 year was observed to be maintained between 18-22°C.
- Staff were observed to physically check sleeping children at 10 minutes intervals a record was kept indicating the colour, position and breath of each child.

### Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were completed.
- Fire escape routes and procedures were easily identifiable in the care room, with staff outlining the process efficiently.
- Staff were able to outline drills and evacuation procedures.
- Smoke alarms and emergency lighting was evident throughout the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. An Immediate Action Notice was issued onsite on the day of inspection under regulation 23. The temperature of the radiator in the hallway where children were observed to congregate was measured at 56.9°C. This posed an immediate risk of scalding. The person in charge was informed and immediately turned the radiator off; mitigating the risk to children.
2. In Toddler Room 1 hazardous cleaning materials were stored within reach of children in an unlocked low level shelving unit. While a safety lock was present, it was broken. This poses a risk to children of accidental poisoning. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection in March 2023 and April 2024, the corrective and preventative actions provided by the registered provider have not been sufficient to prevent recurrence.

#### Infection Control

3. In the second-floor sanitary area a swing bin was in use for the disposal of sanitary products and handtowels. This may lead to children being exposed to harmful bacteria.
4. In the second-floor sanitary area sanitary products were stored in open containers behind the toilets. This poses a risk of cross contamination of harmful bacteria.

#### Fire Safety:

5. The registered provider did not ensure that the back stairwell which forms part of the evacuation route to the emergency exit door was fully cleared of items awaiting disposal and art materials. These items were observed to partially block the route and emergency exit door and may have impeded the safe evacuation of children from the service in the event of a fire emergency. The person in charge was made aware of this hazard and items were removed during the day to create a clear walkway.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. On the day of inspection, the inspector was shown correspondence from plumber and an email was later sent from the person in charge stated the heating has been reduced and plans are underway to fit a thermostat to the radiator system.
2. The registered provider has stated that the cleaning materials were removed on the day of inspection and a lock is to be fitted on the cabinet.

##### Infection Control:

3. The registered provider has stated that the bin in the sanitary areas has been removed, and staff re-educated on safe disposal of waste.
4. The registered provider has stated the products from the sanitary area have been removed and staff are to check the sanitary areas daily.

##### Fire Safety:

5. The registered provider has stated that the stairway was cleared on the day of inspection with signage placed on stairs informing staff the hazards of blocking the stairway. A staff meeting was held, and daily checks of the stairway are to be included on the daily risk assessments.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. The person in charge submitted a picture of email correspondence with the plumber, along with a picture indicating current radiator temperatures.
2. No evidence submitted.

##### Infection Control:

3. No evidence submitted.
4. No evidence submitted.

##### Fire Safety:

5. Pictures have been submitted.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions submitted by the registered provider have addressed non-compliances under Regulation 23. Regulatory compliance has been met.

## 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 training were immediately available to children attending the service.

(2) (a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position within each floor on 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 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the premises was adequately insured as a full day care service for the maximum number of children registered. The certificate reviewed had an expiry date of 27 of March 2025.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (b)
- The main door to the service was secured with an electronic bell and camera system, preventing unauthorised access of persons into the service.
  - Access to the care rooms on each floor is gained via a keypad system. This prevents children from leaving each area unsupervised whilst also prevent unauthorised persons accessing these areas.
  - Nonslip floor coverings were in place throughout the service. Flooring around high-risk areas such as stairs were secured.
  - Exits were clearly identified.
- (c)
- The sanitary areas within the service were fitted with mechanical ventilation systems, this was effective in removing odours.
  - Fresh air circulated daily through open windows within each care room and main stairwell. With ambient temperatures being maintained throughout the service.
  - Natural light was introduced into the service via large windows with artificial light supplementing this if needed.
- (d)
- Cleaning schedules were available in care rooms and sanitary areas and were observed to be completed to date.
  - Cleaning is undertaken by staff throughout the day within the care rooms and sanitary areas, this is reflected in the cleaning schedules and through observation on the day of inspection. The registered provider has employed a cleaner who attends the service outside the operational hours of the service to assist in the cleaning of the service.

- Flooring within the service was maintained and clean.
- A plastic sealant sheet was adhered to the walls behind the sinks in the sanitary areas, to allow for hygienic cleaning.

(e)

- An adequate number of sanitary were available for use by adults and children. The following was observed.
- Seven toilets and seven sinks were available for use by toilet trained children. Children also have access to sinks within each care room.
- Three nappy changing units and sinks were available for children who required nappy changing.
- Two toilets and two sinks were available for twenty-one adults who were present on the day.

### Non-Compliance Information

(a)

1. The glass panels in several of the windows of the service were observed to have large cracks in them and some were observed to be shattered completely. The strength of the glass may be compromised and could pose a risk to the children. This was noted as a non-compliance on inspections in 2022, 2023 and 2024. It is acknowledged that the registered provider has engaged in talks with the building owners regarding a resolution.

(d)

2. The shock absorbing tiles in the outdoor area on the first floor were loose and curling. This posed a potential trip hazard for children accessing this area.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The registered provider has stated they are ongoing talks with the landlord in relation to the cracked windows.
2. The registered provider is seeking alternative flooring.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1. None submitted.
2. None submitted.

### Summary Comment

The registered provider has not addressed the non-compliances identified. These will remain outstanding and will be reviewed on the next inspection. Regulatory compliance has not been met.