

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY036
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Name of Service:	Early Journeys
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Address of Service:	74 Shantalla Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9
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Eircode:	D09 AY28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita Keszei
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	21/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson and L.A. Webster
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).

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Description of service

Early Journeys is a sessional care service located in a residential area of Dublin 9 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 40 children aged 3 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service in the mornings during term time from 9.00am to 12.00pm and provides a school age service in the afternoons. The service is one of two services operated locally by the registered provider.

Early Journeys operates from a converted retail building, with two care rooms. The ready for school room operates on the ground floor and the ECCE room on the first floor. There are sanitary facilities located off the care rooms and further sanitary facilities are available for staff.

An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs five staff to work in the service, including the person in charge, a staff member to work in the kitchen, and three staff who work directly with the children who also work in the school age service in the afternoon. The registered provider does not work in the service but was present on the morning of the inspection, along with the person in charge, a staff member who worked in the kitchen, and two staff who worked 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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11 and 30; however, on inspection additional non-compliances which posed a risk were identified under Regulation 8 and Regulation 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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

A referral was made to Tusla SOORS (Services Operating Outside of Registered Status); please see regulation 8 for further information.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 0323	21/04/2026	Evidence of international police vetting was not available for one adult who had access to children.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider immediately and the provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventative actions which were accepted by the inspectorate. Vetting must be provided to the inspectorate before the person is allowed access to children.	

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(3) Where a registered provider has been unable for good and proper reason to notify the Agency within the time specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of a change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2), the registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing of the change as soon as possible thereafter.

Non-Compliance Information

(3) The registered provider did not notify the agency of a change in service type. The service was observed to be operating outside of its registered status as a sessional service. Three children were observed to be present in the service from 9.00am until 1.10pm. Attendance longer than 3.5 hours indicates a part-time service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(3) The registered provider will ensure to always operate within its approved registered sessional hours unless prior approval for a change in service type has been granted by the Early Years Registration Office. The registered provider has submitted a Change of Circumstances application to standardize the proposed operational changes and will await approval from the Early Years Inspectorate before implementing any change to the registered service type or hours. The late collections policy was reviewed, and parents were reminded to collect children in a timely manner, or to make alternative arrangements to collect children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Service policy on Arrivals and Departures.

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Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 8 has been addressed.

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,

(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,

(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) The registered provider ensured that;

(a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the registered provider it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection and two of these new staff members were reported to work directly with the children.

The registered provider had completed the following checks:

(a) Six validated written references were available from recent past employers.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three reviewed.

(3) The checks outlined in (2) were carried out prior to staff members being appointed in their role.

Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure the following:

- (2)
- (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN0323 served. It is acknowledged that international police vetting was available for two of the three staff members who had resided outside of the state for more than six months as an adult.
- (4) The registered provider did not ensure that each employee working directly with children held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. There was no evidence available to demonstrate that one of the two employees working directly with children held the required qualifications or equivalent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2) (d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN0323 served.
- (4) The registered provider reports that the staff member has been removed from direct work with children until the appropriate qualification documentation is available and verified. A strengthened recruitment procedure is now in place prior to staff commencing.

Supporting documentation submitted

Staff File Checklist

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 have been addressed.

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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.*

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider did not ensure that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children. Of the three adults providing direct care to the minimum of 25 children who were present when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service at 11.47am, only two had documentary evidence available that they were qualified.
- (3) The registered provider did not ensure that the adult to child ratios were maintained in the service at all times during the inspection. Three qualified staff members were required to provide direct care to the minimum of 25 children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) The registered provider reports that they have updated their plan to deal with staff absences and will ensure that all staff qualification records are complete. This includes a contingency procedure to ensure immediate cover arrangements are in place where staff leave unexpectedly.
- (3) The registered provider reported that qualified staff were deployed to meet the required staffing levels. Staff rosters will be planned in advance to ensure the correct adult-to-child ratios are always maintained. The service will monitor staffing levels throughout the day and arrange extra qualified staff if needed to ensure that at least three qualified staff are always present when 25 children are in attendance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Daily staff and child ratio sheet.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 11 have been addressed.

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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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The registered provider did not ensure a full record in writing with all the required particulars was available on the premises to provide for the safe care of children.
Full details relating to the child and their medical history, along with relevant consent for medical treatment and authorisation to collect children must be readily accessible for staff to be fully informed to make decisions which can potentially impact the safety of the child.

Fire Safety:

- There was no reliable source to accurately identify the number of children who were present in the premises on the day of the inspection. The following was observed:
 - None of the 18 children registered in the Ready for school room were recorded as present in the service attendance log on the day of inspection. Nine of the 11 children registered in the ECCE room were recorded as present.
 - The children from both the ECCE and Ready for School rooms were in the outdoor play area when the inspectors arrived at the service. The inspectors recorded 25 children present in one count and 28 in a second count.
 - Staff reported that there were 29 children present when the inspectors arrived at the service.
 Inaccurate accounting of the number of children present can pose a potential risk in the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

- The registered provider ensures that the files for the children who had recently moved to the service are now on site. The manager checklist now includes a check confirm that all required child information is available and up to date at the start of each session. Staff training to include importance of access to child information.

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Fire Safety:

- The registered provider reports that staff were instructed and cautioned on the importance of signing children in and out promptly and accurately, and of maintaining up-to-date attendance records. Ongoing supervision will be carried out to ensure compliance. This is included in manager checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

- Manager checklist.

Fire Safety:

- Manager checklist.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been addressed.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.

(3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

Compliance Information

(1) There was adequate clear floor space available in the premises for the work, play and movement for the number of children registered to attend the service.

(3) The registered provider ensured a minimum of 1.818m² was available for each child as set out in the table below:

Room Name	Clear floor space m ² measured by EYI	Space required:	Number of children room can accommodate:

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Ground floor	43 m ²	2-6 years: 1.818 m ²	23 sessional
First Floor	31.3 m ²	2-6 years: 1.818 m ²	17 sessional