

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017DS502
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Learn And Laugh Childcare
-------------------------	---------------------------

Address of Service:	13 Foxborough Gardens, Balgaddy, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	K78 RK09
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Jennifer Lowney Corcoran
-------------------------------------	--------------------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	29/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	NA
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Mayock & O. Quill
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Learn and Laugh is an early learning and care centre located in a residential area of South Dublin offering full time, part time and sessional care and education. The service is located in a purposely adapted domestic dwelling. The service operates from 7.30am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday and offers a sessional service for 38 weeks of the year from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The service consists of 3 care rooms, a kitchen and sanitary accommodation. There is a secure outdoor area to the rear of the building. There were three care rooms in operation on the day of inspection, the Toddler room the Pre-school room and the Montessori room.

Staffing

The service currently employs four adults to work with the preschool children. An additional two adults are employed to work with school age children including the person in charge. The registered provider does not work 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9(1) (a-c), (2) (a-d), 4 Management and Recruitment,

11(1), (2) Staffing Levels,
16(i) Record in relation to Pre-school Service,
22 Food and Drink,
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
25 (1), (2)(a)(b) First Aid,
26 (1)(b) Fire Safety.

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 29th of April 2025 in respect non-compliance identified under Regulation 25 First Aid. It is acknowledged that the registered provider implemented actions to adequately respond to the immediate action notice on the 1st of May 2025. Please see details in the body of the report.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (c) There was evidence of a clear management structure which outlined the roles of authority within the service.

(2)

Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that no new staff commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 26 June 2024.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children. There were twenty-two children being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.

(2)
The minimum adult to child ratios was maintained throughout the inspection.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)
(i) There was a staff roster available on the day of inspection that clearly identified the staff assigned to each room.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

(1)
There was a specified food menu available for review. Meals were provided from an external company and had a rotating monthly menu available to view. On the day of inspection, a hot meal of cottage pie was provided to the children with water available too.

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

General Safety:

- The entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Waste was managed appropriately in the pre-school rooms with the use of pedal bins.
- The Pre-school rooms and sanitary facilities were observed to be in a clean condition.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the sanitary area upstairs the children's toilet seat was loose and posed a safety concern for the children using it.
2. In the sanitary area upstairs the toilet sink was loose and could move easily which posed a safety concern to the children.
3. The attic door upstairs was broken and hanging down exposing an open stair ladder, children were observed to be walking underneath it on the day of inspection, this posed a significant safety concern to the children.

Infection Control:

4. The nappy changing mat in the designated nappy changing area was torn, as a result it could not be effectively cleaned for infection control purposes.
5. The nappy bin in the sanitary area was not pedal operated which posed a risk of cross contamination.
6. The nappy change observed was at variance with the service policy. The staff member did not wipe down the nappy mat in between the nappy changes which poses a risk of cross contamination.

Fire Safety:

7. Monthly fire drills were not recorded. The last fire drill recorded was dated 21st January 2025 posing a potential safety risk.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The children's toilet seats upstairs have been replaced. All toilet's will be monitored daily to insure this will not happen again.
2. The sink in the children's upstairs bathroom has been replaced. This will be monitored daily to insure this will not happen again.
3. The lock on the attic door has been replaced. This will be monitored daily to insure this will not happen again.

Infection Control:

4. The nappy changing mat has been replaced with a new mat. The nappy changing mat will be checked daily to insure it has no rips in it.

5. A new nappy bin with a pedal has been placed in the nappy changing Area. This is our new way of disposing nappies.
6. All Staff were given a copy of the nappy changing policy. All staff were reminded of the importance of wiping down mat after each child.

Fire Safety:

7. Staff meeting took place after inspection. Management was reminded of the importance of recording fire drills monthly. Registered provider will spot check fire drills book to make sure these are recorded.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic and written evidence.

Infection Control:

Photographic and written evidence.

Fire Safety:

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the corrective actions stated by the registered provider. The Regulatory requirement 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

- (2)
- (a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.
 - (b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

A person trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) was not available to the children in the service at all times. An immediate action notice was issued following the inspection in relation to Regulation 25(1).

This was found non-compliant on the previous two inspections dated 2nd November 2022 and 26th June 2024.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) Two staff members have started there FAR course. Evidence of booking has been sent, the two staff members are on day 2 of this Friday the 16th of May. Certs will be sent as soon as course is completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

A receipt and email to confirm FAR training booked.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the corrective actions stated by the registered provider. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The firefighting equipment was last serviced on the 5th of June 2024 and the smoke alarms were last serviced on the 31st of May 2024.