

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DR002
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Name of Service:	Nuture Childcare Limited / Once Upon A Time
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Address of Service:	Lidl Neighbourhood Centre, Corbawn Lane, Shankill, Shankill, County Dublin.
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Eircode:	D18 WY28
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Name of Registered Provider:	AnneMarie McCormack
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	13/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	64	PM	64
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate-Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin. A96P3Y6.
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill, Sarah Quigley
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

This private childcare facility is one of a multiple of services operated by the registered provider in the Dublin region. The service is registered to provide a full day care for pre-school children aged from 0-6 years and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 07:30 -18:30. The service is located in a purpose-built premises on the grounds of a business park in Shankill County Dublin. Care is delivered across four care rooms named Junior Wobbler (All 1 year), Senior Wobbler (All 2years), pre-Montessori (2-3years) and Montessori (3-5 years). A separate sleep room is provided. There is an outdoor play area provided on the premises.

Staffing

In total sixteen adults are employed in the service including a domestic worker. On the day of inspection 14 adults were present this included 12 childcare staff who worked directly with the children a domestic worker and the person in charge who provided additional support to relieve staff for their breaks. The registered provider does not work in the service. After the inspection commenced 4 additional adults employed in the service who were on the roster arrived. This included 2 operations managers, the training manager and a relief staff member from another one of the childcare services. These adults were present in the care rooms observing and supporting staff throughout the day.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 as required.*
- (b) The designated person in charge and the person appointed to deputise were on the premises during the inspection.*
- (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff were aware of their own roles and responsibilities.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(2) Following a discussion with the operations manager and review of records, it was confirmed that 9 adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 24 February 2025. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2), (3), (4) was reviewed in respect of the 9 adults as detailed below. In addition, Garda vetting for 6 adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review as part of the inspection. The operations manager confirmed 4 of these adults are no longer employed in the service.

(a), (b) In total 18 written validated references were available.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 9 adults. Renewed Garda vetting disclosures were available for 4 adults. The service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years

(d) Translated police vetting was available for 8 adults who had lived in a state other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as adults.

(3) All required recruitment procedures were carried out by the registered provider prior to the adults being allowed access to the children attending the service.

(4) Documentation was available to show three adults employed to work directly with children attending the service 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 equivalent by the Department of Children. Five adults held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality. One adult was employed for ancillary duties did not require a childcare qualification.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 64 children attending the service being supervised by 12 adults on the day of inspection. Additionally, the person in charge, relief staff member and managers provided support.

(8)(a) There were at least two staff members on the premises throughout the inspection. The staff roster provided for a minimum of two staff to be on the premises at all times of opening.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

(b) Children moved freely within their allocated care rooms, engaging in free play and activities. Staff were observed sitting with the children, supporting table-top activities and interacting with them in cosy areas. Learning was encouraged through opportunities such as counting, with staff prompting children to repeat numbers aloud. When children lost interest in an activity, staff responded appropriately by offering alternative options. Interactions between staff and children were consistently warm, respectful, and supportive.

Meals and snacks were provided at regular intervals throughout the day. Younger children were given bibs to protect their clothing. Staff sat at their level and encouraged children to feed themselves and provided additional support as required. In the Montessori room, staff actively promoted independence; children were observed using the toilet independently, and some assisted in setting the table by handing out plates and cups. At mealtimes, children were encouraged to serve themselves, for example taking pasta from a shared bowl at the centre of the table. Drinking water was readily available in all care rooms and was offered regularly with meals and snacks.

Transitions to sleep time were managed in a calm and supportive manner. Staff assisted children with removing shoes and outer clothing, and soothers were provided where required. Gentle music was played to create a relaxing environment and support children in settling to sleep.

All children were provided with opportunities for outdoor play at designated times. They were appropriately supervised and dressed for the weather conditions, ensuring their comfort and wellbeing.

Staff reported that they maintain daily communication with parents at both drop-off and collection times. In addition, information regarding children's sleep, diet, and activities is shared through a two-way communication app, supporting ongoing partnership with parents.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 entrance door to the service was secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent children exiting unsupervised. Access to the service is managed via a video intercom entry system.
- Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- There were no trailing flexes or cables observed and medicines were stored safely.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained by staff.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supported to wash their hands after outdoor play, using the toilet and before meals.
- Staff were observed to follow the nappy changing policy and procedure for the service when changing children's nappies.
- Suitable pedal operated bins were provided in the care rooms and sanitary areas for the disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an awareness of the procedures to take to ensure medication is given safely if needed, including obtaining written parental/guardian consent.
- Administration of medication records were available for review and contained details of the medication given, including parental consent, the signatures of the staff member who administered the medication, and the staff member who was present as a witness.
- Staff were familiar with care plans which were available for children with specific medical conditions.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff when spoken to were knowledgeable on safe sleep guidelines. All sleeping children were physically monitored and sleep checks were recorded every ten minutes by staff.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The temperature of the cot room and other areas where young children were sleeping was maintained within the recommended range. Adequate spacing of 50 cms was maintained between cots and low level beds.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly illuminated and unobstructed.
- Staff were familiar with the fire drill procedure.

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) The registered provider ensured a person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to children attending the service at all times.
- (2) (a), (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were safely stored in each care room and easily accessible in clearly labelled cupboards in the pre-school rooms.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

art 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.*
- (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 monthly record of fire drills was available. The last fire drill was completed on 08 April 2026.
 - (b) The number type and maintenance record for fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. The fire fighting equipment was serviced March 2026 and the smoke alarm was serviced on the 30 June 2025.
 - (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the main hall and each care room.