

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2019DR003
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Name of Service:	Silveracre
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Address of Service:	Rere 43, St. Patricks Cottage, Grange Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
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Eircode:	D14 XV02
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita O'Dowd Archbold
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/08/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	6
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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:	L Jameson
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

Description of service

Silveracre is a full day care service located in a residential area in South Dublin and provides care to a maximum of 14 children, aged 2 – 6 years, Monday to Friday from 08:00am – 06:00pm. The service is comprised of a kitchen, one care room, sanitary accommodation and an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The service also offers the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service in the afternoon, providing support in the care room and covering lunch breaks. The registered provider employs three staff members to work directly with the children attending the service, including the deputy person in charge and two early years practitioners. The deputy person in charge and one early year's practitioner was present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service. The registered provider arrived in the service at approximately 10:05am to greet the inspector, returning in the afternoon to support the inspection process. One early year's practitioner arrived in the service at approximately 12:30pm to provide support during lunch breaks.

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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16(1)(j)(k) Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

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
 - (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 needed.
 - (b) The person in charge and deputy person in charge was rostered to be present at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on. The deputy person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service.
 - (c) The service had a clear management structure, and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.

- (2) The full staff files of four adults employed to work in the service were reviewed. The following was observed:
- (a) Three written and verified references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Five written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for four adults who work in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda Vetting every three years.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to four adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the four 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

- (2)
- (d) International police vetting was not available for two adults in respect of countries they had lived in other than Ireland for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (d) International police vetting for one adult has been obtained and added to the staff file. Updated documentation has been added to the staff file in relation to one adult to confirm that they had not spent longer than six consecutive months in another state, removing the requirement for international police vetting.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)
- (d) Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed, including international police vetting for one adult and an updated CV for another adult, indicating that international police vetting was not required, accompanied by a statutory declaration.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 9.

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 that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. In the morning, there were two adults caring for eleven children and during the afternoon there were two adults caring for six children.

(2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff members were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children in the care room.

(8)
(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present in the service at all times, verified by the roster and discussion with staff members.

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:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

(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) The registered provider ensured that there was a record kept in writing of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child were stored in the children’s attendance record on a communication application.

(i) The registered provider ensured that there was an accurate record of the staff roster containing the details of the staff members rostered on the day of inspection.

(j) Nine administration of medication records were available for review on a communication application, and all information was completed in full.

(k) Nine accident and incident records were available for review on a communication application, and all information was completed in full.

(3) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All records requested by the inspector were available for review.

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

(1)

(b) The following practices were observed on the day of inspection which supported the health, welfare and development of the children attending:

- Staff members used positive and respectful language on the day of inspection. The staff were observed to positively reinforce the children's achievements with praise and recognition. Minor conflicts and disagreements were resolved in a calm and prompt manner.
- The children were supported to follow their own interests; decision making was encouraged by staff members who were observed to actively supervise and guide the children throughout the day.
- Staff members spoke to the inspector about settling in periods and the importance of giving the children freedom to choose activities and explore their environment, demonstrating their familiarity with the individual needs of the children. The children were observed to move freely between their care room and the enclosed outdoor play area, extending their opportunities for spontaneous play.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a calm and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children. Water was readily available to the children in the care room.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, offering discreet supervision for toileting and assisting with hand washing.
- Foldable sleep mats and appropriate bed linen were available to the children if they wanted to rest or sleep. A cosy corner with a couch and pillows was also available for rest and quiet activities if required.

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 leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- A visitor book was available at the front door. The inspector was asked to sign in and sign out at their arrival to and departure from the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Lunches brought from home were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.
- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and a wall mounted hand drier.
- Foot operated pedal bins were available in the service to ensure the hygienic disposal of waste.
- Windows were observed to be open to allow circulation of fresh air and reduce malodour in the care room and sanitary accommodation.

Administration of Medication:

- Anti-febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A radiator cover in the care room was observed to be cracked and broken, posing a potential pinch risk to the children.

Infection Control:

2. A towel was observed to hang on the wall in the sanitary accommodation and two children were observed to use it to dry their hands after handwashing, increasing the potential risk of cross contamination and reducing effective handwashing practices in place.

3. The radiator in the sanitary accommodation was observed to have peeled paint which exposed an excessive amount of rust. This does not allow for effective cleaning and increases the potential risk of cross contamination.
4. Toilet roll was observed to be stored on the back of both toilets in the sanitary accommodation. This increases the risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The radiator cover was removed and replaced with a new one. In future, any broken or damaged covers will be repaired or replaced immediately.

Infection Control:

2. The towel was removed, and hand paper towels are now available for use in the sanitary area for children who do not like to use the hand drier.
3. The radiator in the sanitary accommodation has been replaced. A cover has also been placed on top to prevent rusting. Management and staff will carry out regular checks to identify any such issues in the future.
4. The toilet rolls were removed from the back of the toilet cistern area. Management have reminded staff that toilet rolls are not to be stored on the back of the toilet.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Infection Control:

2. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
3. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.
4. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 23.

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) A person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service. This was evidenced in the FAR training records maintained for two staff members and their scheduled attendance in the service's staff roster. In addition, one other staff member held in-date Paediatric First Aid training.
- (2)
- (a) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and easily accessible to the staff
 - (b) The first aid boxes were available for the children attending the service at all times.

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) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service. The records indicated and staff members reported that fire drills were carried out monthly. A fire drill was carried out on the day of inspection while the inspector was present in the service.

(b) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate a maintenance check was carried out on the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in September 2024.

(2) Records were open to inspection by an authorised person. All fire records requested by the inspector were available for review.

(4) The evacuation procedure was conspicuously displayed on the premises which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire or emergency in the 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 service was adequately insured to reflect the type of care provided. The insurance certificate had an expiry date of 27 March 2026.