

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2020GY006

**Name of Service:** Teddy House Creche

**Address of Service:** Leas Na Mara, Ballymoneen Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway

**Eircode:** H91 X6WR

**Name of Registered Provider:** Carlie Healy

**Service type:** Full Day

**Date of Inspection:** 12/02/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	26	PM	33

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Tusla - Child and Family Agency,  
Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate,  
Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor),  
Merlin Park, Galway.

**Inspection undertaken by:** F. Nic Dhonnacha

**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

This private purpose-built premises is located in Knocknacarra, Co. Galway. This preschool offers a full day care from 8.00hrs to 18.00hrs and part time care provision from 9.00hrs to 13.00hrs. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programmes and sessional care programmes are also offered. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The premises has its own kitchen, where children's main meals are prepared, cooked, and stored on site. Six cots and stackable beds are available for sleep provision. In each playroom, quiet rest areas with child size seating and soft matting are available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if they wish to do so. There is a secure outdoor play area to the front and side of the premises for children's play, exploration, and fresh air. A child centred play-based pre-school curriculum focusing on emerging interests and Montessori is provided.

### Staffing

The registered provider works between her nearby partner services. There is a named person in charge and there is a named designated deputy person in charge. There is a total of 17 adults working in the premises which includes the registered provider who is supernumerary, a person in charge, an adult designated to kitchen duties, an auxiliary person and three students over the age of 18 years on an Erasmus college placement (who were supervised by qualified staff when interacting with the pre-school children) and eleven childcare workers. Twelve staff in total had a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5, Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

### 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 regulations 11, 19, 23, 25, 26, and 28; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 9. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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

The 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

An Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 9(2)(c). A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one member of staff who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February a response was received from the registered provider outlining the corrective actions taken.

The 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

A copy of the required Garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate by the registered provider.

### 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

(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.

(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)

There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise if required.

(b)

The designated person in charge was available during the inspection in the service.

(2)

Thirty-four files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

- (a)  
Twenty-one of thirty-four required validated references from past employers were available.
- (b)  
Thirteen out of the thirty-four required validated references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of 16 adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.
- (d)  
International police vetting was available for 14 adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months.
- (4)  
Twelve adults held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(c)  
A mandatory Garda vetting disclosure was not available for one adult who was present in the service contrary to the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Act.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 an Immediate Action Notice was issued under Regulation 9(2)(c) and the registered provider responded outlining the corrective actions taken to resolve the non-compliance.

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

On the 12/2/2025, 18/2/2025 and 20/3/2025 the registered provider advised of the following

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 a response was received from the registered provider outlining the corrective actions taken. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 a copy of the required Garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the inspectorate by the registered provider.

On the 20/3/2025 the registered provider advised that all staff Garda vetting's will be checked regularly by the manager and deputy manager and a record will be maintained.

## Supporting documentation submitted

A Garda vetting disclosure was submitted to the office of the early years inspectorate.

## Summary Comment

Based on the registered providers response and evidence submitted to the inspectorate the area of non-compliance was addressed. The regulatory requirement for Regulation 9(2)(c) was addressed.

## 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 worked directly with the children attending the service.
- (2)  
The adult to child ratio was maintained. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2025 9 adults cared for 26 children in the morning and 9 adults cared for 33 children in the afternoon. In addition, the registered provider and childcare manager provided assistance with the administration part of the inspection.
- (8)(a)  
Two staff were rostered on duty during the opening hours of the service.

## 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 children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the children. Three playrooms were in operation during the inspection.

#### Basic Needs of Children:

- Healthy meals and snacks were provided in the preschool service, the food appeared nutritious. Water or milk were offered as a drink at each meal and snack time. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed and unhurried.
- Crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the ages and stages of development of the children.
- The children were encouraged to be independent in play and learning, whilst caring for their belongings and using the toilet.
- Staff supervised the children and treated the children in a sensitive manner during nappy changes and toileting. Nappies were changed frequently and on an individual basis. The privacy and dignity of the child was maintained at nappy changing time.
- The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care and nasal care appropriate to their age and level of development.
- The infants were encouraged to feed themselves and promoted to be independent. The children had their meals in the playrooms, these periods were observed to be relaxed and unhurried.
- The children had the opportunity to move about freely in their environment throughout the day.

### Supporting Relationships Around Children:

- The staff treated the children with positive regard. The children and staff were conversing in a kind and respectful manner, the staff were speaking to the children at their level in soft gentle tones of voice.
- Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions observed between the staff and children. The staff offered continuous praise and encouragement, and children were respected and supported in their choice of individual and group engagement in activities.
- A key person approach was observed in each playroom, the staff demonstrated an appropriate level of knowledge of the children's preferences, interests, and individual capabilities.
- The staff followed the children's lead in the playrooms and the children were supported in individual and group play.
- The rooms provided visual cards and routine displays demonstrating photographic illustrations to support and include all children in the programme of care.
- The children were notified in advance of any transitions and consulted in the delivery of the programme of care and learning. The children's daily observations were shared with parents. The children were learning about Valentines Day and were observed making flowers from arts and crafts materials for their family
- The staff communicated informally with parents and guardians during drop off and collection periods from the service. The staff interacted in a positive manner with the children, parents and guardians.

## 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 internal and external entrances to the service were appropriately secured to monitor people's entry.
- The materials and equipment throughout the service were maintained in good condition.
- Storage areas were secured to prevent the children accessing the contents within.
- The hot water in the wash hand basins throughout the service was regulated not to exceed 43°C to avoid the risk of scalding a preschool child.

### Infection Control:

- The indoor and outdoor environments were maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped with warm running water, liquid soap and hand paper towels to promote good hand hygiene practices.
- Both the children and the adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals after activities, toileting and before mealtime.
- Tissues were readily available and accessible to the children in each playroom.
- Two designated nappy changing areas were available with foot pedalled lidded bins.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- Medicines examined were within date.
- The staff advised suncreams were checked on a regular basis with the child's name clearly visible and the date of expiry.

### Safe Sleep:

- There was a designated sleep room adjacent to the Nursery room which had six cots for children under two years of age. Additionally, there were sleep mats and stackable beds available for older children's sleep provision.
- Children were observed sleeping on demand following cues and signs of tiredness.
- Older children had designated relaxation and chill out time in their playroom.
- The service had safe and comfortable spaces for the younger toddlers to lie, roll, creep and crawl, to explore and to be protected from children who were more mobile.
- A pod thermometer was available in the sleep room and used as the method of recording the sleep room temperature and necessary any remedial action when temperatures were above 16 °C and 20 °C.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits and passageways were clear from obstruction and clear signage was available to identify the fire evacuation routes within the service.
- A fire assembly point was identifiable at the front of the preschool.

### 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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children, was rostered at all times for the children attending the pre-school service. Three staff had current training in first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box in the office with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

### 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.*

*(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 written record was available of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 30/01/2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 2/04/2024.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 2/04/2024.

(4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service's insurance specifying the address of the service, catering for 48 children at any one time, with an expiry date of 27th of March 2025, was available. The insurance covered

- public liability,
- personal accident,
- against fire and theft,
- buildings,
- outings undertaken as part of the service provision.