

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

1TUSLA Identifier:	TU2022WW004
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Name of Service:	Safari Childcare
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Address of Service:	Unit 3 Southern Cross Central, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Eircode:	A98 Y8X7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Cian Powell, Kevin McGuinness
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	31/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	65	PM	64
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency First Floor Trinity Building IDA Business Park Southern Cross Road Bray Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	H. Bourke and S. Early O'Brien
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

This full day care service was first opened in 2022 and is situated in a shopping centre complex in the outskirts of Bray in Co. Wicklow.

The service is registered to provide care and education for children aged between 1 years and 6 years of age and can accommodate a maximum of 95 children at full capacity. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm (including a sessional ECCE service from 9.00 am to 12 midday for 38 weeks of the year). The premises is a two-storey building that has been adapted to facilitate a childcare service.

There are six service rooms in use. There is one sleep room, an office and a kitchen.

Staffing

Following a discussion with the manager and reviewing the staff roster it was confirmed that 24 adults are employed in the service, this included the full-time chef. There were 20 adults present on the day of inspection. This included the manager, assistant manager and the full-time chef. The registered providers do not work directly with the children attending the service. Eighteen adults were working directly with the children, with the manager and assistant manager supporting the staff when needed.

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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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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 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,*

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(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

There were 11 new adults employed in the service since the last inspection 4 December 2024, their files were reviewed.

(1)(a)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required.

(b)

The person in charge was on the premises at the time of the arrival of the inspectors and remained on the premises for the duration of the inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

Written validated references were available in respect of 24 adults.

(c)

Completed three-year Garda Vetting Disclosures were available for 24 adults.

(d)

International police vetting was available for five adults who had lived outside the State for more than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Twenty-three adults held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or had a qualification deemed equivalent.

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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.

(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)
Throughout the inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)
The correct adult/child ratio was maintained at all times. There were 18 adults employed and present with 65 children on the day of 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:

- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
- (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.

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Compliance Information

(1)(a), (h)-(k),

The person in charge made sure that a record in writing was kept of the above information in relation to the service.

(3)

The person in charge ensured that these records were available for inspection to an authorised person.

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)

There was a calm and relaxed atmosphere in the pre-school throughout the morning. Adults were observed to be warm and kind towards the children in their care evidenced by soft language tones and use of the children's individual names during activities

The adults supported children at play in both individual and small group activities showing them how to share and take turns and praising them for their efforts.

The pre-school rooms were well laid out with age-appropriate materials and equipment which was easily accessible on the low-level shelving provided.

All snacks and a healthy lunch were provided by the pre-school except for children who attend on a sessional only basis. Drinking water was freely available and children also had their own individual drinking containers.

Lunch was observed to be an enjoyable and relaxed event. All children were observed to have freedom of movement within their rooms.

Transitions from one activity to another was seamless and unrushed and children were happy to go from one activity to the next.

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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.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- The main door to the service was securely locked on arrival of the inspectors to the service.
- All toys examined were in good condition and equipment was suitable, age appropriate and in good working order.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children.
- Documentary evidence was available of daily risk assessments being carried out in the service.
- All cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The emergency exit route from each care room was free from obstruction and clearly marked.

Infection Control:

- Cleaning schedules for all pre-school rooms and for the remainder of the premises were available and maintained.
- Each pre-school room had access to a sanitary area, with toilets, changing tables, warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Children's soothers were stored in individual containers and named accordingly, cleaning and storing of soothers was included in the daily cleaning policy of the service.
- A foot pedal bin was available in all sanitary areas for the safe disposal of used paper towels. Foot pedal bins were also available in all pre-school rooms and the nappy changing areas.
- Table cleaning was observed before and after snack time as was hand washing by adults and children before snacks and after using the toilet.

Administration of Medication:

While the administration of medication was not observed on the day of inspection, a review of 28 service medication administration records demonstrated that the service was fully compliant in their administration practice and record keeping.

Fire Safety:

An in-date record of monthly fire drills, in addition to annual certification of fire equipment and smoke detection system were available for review on the day of inspection.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated.*

Compliance Information

(a)

The premises appeared to be of a sound and stable structure.

(b)

The premises was observed to be safe and secure.

Non-Compliance Information

(c)

1. On the day of inspection, in the upstairs sanitary area and in the corridor outside the sanitary area beside Wobbler 1 there were visible signs of water damage on the ceiling tiles. The person in charge had advised the inspectors that there had been a water leak in the previous weeks and while the leak had been repaired, there was still a strong smell of damp coming from the sanitation area that was not being managed by the ventilation system.
2. At 13:00, it was noted that there was malodorous smell in Junior Monti 1. The room was empty at the time and the door was open. The ventilation system appeared to be working but this did not improve the quality of the air in the room. The odour did not spread outside the room.

A similar non-compliance was noted on the last inspection report 4 December 2024. The corrective and preventive actions submitted failed to prevent the non-compliance from re-occurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

1. The company maintenance team replaced the damaged ceiling tiles and checked for further damp issues and were happy that there were none. Going forward works will be completed in full in a timely manner.

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2. A drain clearing company surveyed the site and found a copper pipe under the sink which had not been sealed allowing bad odours to travel back up the pipes. Our maintenance team carried out a full check of the plumbing for all sinks and sealed additional pipes as required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of new ceiling tiles and receipts for plumbing repairs and the sealed pipes were submitted with the CAPA response.

Summary Comment

The above actions have addressed the non-compliances found in relation to regulation 29 (c) points 1 & 2 and will be reviewed on next inspection.