

# TUSLA PRE- REGISTRATION REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

## Initial Inspection of Proposed New Service

**Tusla I.D:** TU2025DS004

**Name of Service:** Dolphins Early Education and Childcare Centre

**Address of Service:** Unit 5 Airton Plaza, Airton Road/Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Dublin, D24EC2R.

**Email Address:** jennifer@dolphinsearlyed.ie

**Name of Proposed Registered Provider:** Jennifer Healy

<b>Type of Proposed Service:</b>	<b>Full Day Care</b>	✓	<b>Part-Time</b>		<b>Drop-In</b>	
	<b>Sessional</b>	✓	<b>Childminding</b>		<b>Temporary</b>	

**Proposed service type:** Full Day Care & Sessional

**Proposed Number of Children:** 92

**Outcome of the F06 Inspection**  
(e.g., type of service, numbers, age ranges, times,)

Full Day Care and Sessional service  
Number of children - 92  
1 to 6 years of age  
Operational hours  
07:30 to 18:00 Monday to Friday for 51 weeks.

**Registered service:** Full Day Care/Sessional service for 92 children aged 1-6 years from 07:30-18:00.

**Date of Inspection:**

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**Inspection Undertaken by:** S. Early O'Brien & H. Bourke

**Title:** Early Years Inspectors

**Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Address:**

Tusla Child and Family Agency,  
The Brunel Building,  
Heuston South Quarter,  
St John's Road West,  
Dublin 8

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### Rationale for Inspection

### Proposed New Service

**Note: For Office use only, to be completed by Registration Office**

<b>Registration Status:</b>	Registered Full Day Care/Sessional Service for 92 children.
<b>Date of Registration:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2025

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(D) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Description of Service</b>	<p>The proposed private childcare facility aims to provide full day care and sessional care for children aged one to six years.</p> <p>The service proposes to accommodate a maximum number of 92 children at full capacity.</p> <p>The service will operate for 51 weeks per year for full day care service, closing for one week at Christmas.</p> <p>The hours of operation will be 07:30 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.</p>
<b>Premises</b>	<p>The proposed service consists of a ground floor, purpose-built premises which can accommodate the proposed childcare service. There are six care rooms, Room 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 available on the ground floor. Adequate sanitary accommodation for both children and staff is available in addition to a staff room, kitchen and office. Each care room has access to a large enclosed outdoor play area which is located to the left hand-side of the building. There are two access points to the main entrance and all rooms, one at the front of the building and one at the rear of the building.</p>
<b>Staffing</b>	<p>The registered provider has appointed a manager for the service. There will be eight adults working with children and this number will increase to sixteen at full capacity. These adults have all attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and</p>

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	Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent. The registered provider will also employ a chef.
<b>Methodology</b>	<p>The inspection was an announced inspection to assess compliance with the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016. The Inspection focused on regulations under four themes; Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of the Child, Safety and Premises.</p> <p>The findings on inspection based on information obtained through examination of documentation, direct observation, and discussion with relevant staff are documented in the inspection report and taken into consideration when making a decision in relation to the registering application. 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.</p>
<b>Acknowledgement</b>	The Inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the proposed registered provider and person in charge 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.*

#### Requirement met:

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has ensured that there will be a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise if required.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The service proposes to accommodate 92 children on a full-day care and sessional basis with an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times. There will be sixteen staff members employed in the service to work directly with the children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

**Regulation 20 - Facilities for Rest and Play**

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that—*

- (a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*
- (b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

*(2) A registered provider—*

- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, shall ensure that a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.*

**Requirement met:**

(1)(a)

The proposed service consists of six care rooms. The rooms are bright, spacious and well laid out to cater for the age range of children who will be attending the proposed service.

	<p>The rooms contained a variety of toys, mark-making station, arts &amp; craft area, role-play area, puzzles, jigsaws and a construction area. There is an individual cozy area in each of the proposed rooms.</p> <p>All of the equipment and toys examined were age appropriate and will be available for the children attending the service.</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>Floor beds have been provided for children aged over 15 months attending rooms 1 and 2. Floor mats have been provided for children aged 2 years and over attending rooms 4 and 5 and a suitable rest area has been provided in care rooms 3 and 6.</p> <p>(2)(a)</p> <p>There is a large enclosed outdoor area provided to the left hand-side of the premises; this area can be accessed directly from care rooms 3, 4, 5 and 6 and is divided according to age and stage of development. The area is suitable, safe and secure.</p>
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**Part V – Care of Children in Pre-School Services**

**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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

The service will provide all snacks and a hot dinner for children attending on a full day care and sessional basis. These will be in line with the Healthy Eating policy of the service.

There is a three-week menu available.

Refrigerated storage facilities are available for perishable snacks.

Drinking water will be available for children in each of the care rooms.

If a child requires additional food the onsite kitchen will provide a healthy snack as needed and will cater for the dietary requirements of all children.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

- The registered provider stated that the front door of the proposed service will be locked at all times, ensuring children cannot leave the service unsupervised, and unauthorised access to the service cannot occur.
- The emergency exits doors were unobstructed.
- Storage is available for the children’s belongings.
- There is a utility room with full washing facilities and storage for cleaning equipment in the service.
- The kitchen is inaccessible to proposed children.
- A fridge is available in the kitchen for the storage of food.
- A cleaning schedule for toys and equipment was available.
- The sanitary accommodations were well stocked with a sufficient supply of liquid soap and paper hand towels. The water temperatures were recorded at 40°C. Foot pedal bins were available in the sanitary areas and the proposed care rooms for the safe disposal of waste.
- The proposed care rooms and sanitary accommodation were ventilated by mechanical ventilation.
- Refuse will be stored where children have no access to it.

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*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)

The service manager and two additional staff members have a current certification in FAR (First Aid Response) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was available for the proposed service.

(b)

Two first aid boxes were clearly identifiable and readily accessible in the service from each of the care rooms, one at the front and one at the rear of the building.

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.*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(1)(a)

The registered provider has indicated that fire drills will be carried out monthly in the care rooms when the service is fully operational.

	<p>(b)</p> <p>There was a maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system dated September 2025.</p> <p>(4)</p> <p>Notice of the procedure to follow in the event of a fire was clearly displayed in each of the proposed care rooms, with fire assembly point notices displayed in prominent locations in the outdoor play area.</p>
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**Part VI - Safety**

**Regulation 28 – Insurance**

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

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>There was evidence of an insurance policy for a full-time service for 92 pre-school children in place which expires on the 27 March 2026.</p> <p>This service registration is contingent upon the registered provider maintaining up-to-date insurance coverage that accurately reflects the number of children attending the service.</p>
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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,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities*

**Requirement met:**

The requirement has been met.

(a)

The proposed service is located in a ground floor purpose-built creche in and apartment plaza in Tallaght, Dublin 24.

(b)

There are two points of entry to the service; one is through the main door at the front of the building which is monitored by the manager and staff and can be locked from the inside; the second is to the rear of the building, monitored by the manager and staff and can be locked from the inside.

The outdoor area is secured with a high wrought iron fence.

(c)

The premises benefits from natural light via windows in the proposed care rooms.

There is supplemental artificial lighting also provided from covered fluorescent ceiling lights in the rooms.

There is an air to water heating system also in place in the service.

Windows in the proposed pre-school rooms can be opened but have restrictors in place and there is mechanical ventilation in the sanitary areas attached to each of the care rooms.

(d)

A cleaning schedule was in place in all six proposed care rooms. The premises and surrounding environment were clean and well maintained.

	<p>(e)</p> <p>There is sanitary accommodation located within each of the care rooms.</p> <p>Room 1 and Room 2 have shared access to two hand basins and two nappy changing facilities.</p> <p>Room 3 has two toilets and two hand basins.</p> <p>Room 4 has one toilet, two hand basins and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>Room 5 has one toilet, two hand basins and a nappy changing facility.</p> <p>Room 6 has two toilets and two hand basins.</p> <p>There are two toilets with two hand basins available for the adults, with disability access in one and both are located off the hallway of the service, adjacent to the care rooms.</p>
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**Part VII – Premises and Space Requirements**

**Regulation 30 – Minimum Space Requirements**

- (1) *Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (2) *A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

<b>Requirement met:</b>	<p>The requirement has been met.</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>Adequate clear floor space has been provided for the work, play and movement of the number of children proposing to attend the service as demonstrated below:</p> <p>(2)</p> <p><b>Room 1.</b></p> <p>The clear floor space measured 29.06 square metres.</p>
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**Room 2.**

The clear floor space measured 28.33 square metres.

**Room 3.**

The clear floor space measured 50.74 square metres.

**Room 4.**

The clear floor space measured 40.09 square metres.

**Room 5.**

The clear floor space measured 31.48 square metres.

**Room 6.**

The clear floor space measured 54.04 square metres.

There is sufficient space in the service to cater for the proposed number of pre-school children attending on a full day or sessional service in the proposed age range.