

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025KE005
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Name of Service:	The Learning Tree Early Education Limited
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Address of Service:	Creche at Abbotfield, Abbotfield, Clane, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W91 DVT8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mateusz Cina
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	02/04/2026
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Date of Inspection:	17/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	22	PM	22
No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM	N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Primary Care Centre, Church Avenue, Tullamore, Co Offaly.
Inspection undertaken by: Day 1	T. Duignan & K. Murphy
Title:	Early Years Inspectors
Inspection undertaken by: Day 2	S. Murray & F. Carty
Titles:	Inspection and Registration Manager and Early Years Inspector

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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).

Description of service

The service is registered as a full day care service to accommodate children aged 1 to 6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 07:30am and 19:30hrs on a Monday to Friday basis. An Early Education and Care programme (ECCE) operates during term time. The service is operated by an independent provider as part of a multiple.

The Early Years' Service is located in a single-storey purpose-built premises. Six pre-school rooms, a sleep room, a kitchen and an office are provided.

Four pre-school rooms were in operation on the 2 April 2026, the Birch room, the Cedar room, the Maple Tree room and the Oak room. Five pre-school rooms were in operation on the 17 April 2026, the Birch room, the Cedar room, the Maple Tree room, the Oak room and the Willow room.

An outdoor play area is attached to the rear of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is situated in a residential area on the outskirts of the town of Clane, County Kildare.

Staffing

The registered provider employs nine adults to work in the service. The person in charge and seven adults were working directly with the children on the 2 April 2026 including the registered provider from another service site who was rostered for the afternoon but arrived after the inspection had commenced and remained on site for the duration of the inspection and the closing meeting.

The registered provider and seven adults were working directly with the children on the 17 April 2026.

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

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The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection on the 2 April 2026 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

- Regulation 9 (1)(2)(3)(4)(7), Management and Recruitment.
- Regulation 10 Policies, Procedures of Pre-School Service.
- Regulation 11(1)(2)(8)(a), Staffing Levels.
- Regulation 15 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i), Record of a pre-school child.
- Regulation 16 (1)(c)(h)(i)(j) and (k), Record of a pre-school service.
- Regulation 19 (1)(a)(b) (2) (3), Health Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.
- Regulation 27 Supervision.
- Regulation 33 Furnishing of information to Agency.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under:

- Regulation 15(1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i), Record of a pre-school child.
- Regulation 19(1)(a)(b) (2) (3), Health Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.
- Regulation 27 Supervision.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Birch, Cedar and Maple Tree rooms.

The ECCE programme was not in operation due to the Easter holidays.

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The inspection on the 17 April 2026 was announced and focused on the areas of Governance, Health welfare and development of the child and Safety.

The inspection focused on a sample of compliance under:

- Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (3), (4), Management and Recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1)(2), Staffing levels.
- Regulation 19 (3), Health Welfare and Development of Child.
- Regulation 26 (a), Fire Safety Measures.

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 inspections were triggered by information received to the Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on both days of inspection.

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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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

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Compliance Information

(1)

Day 1

(a) The person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b) The person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection. The registered provider arrived in the service after the inspection had commenced and remained on site and attended the closing meeting.

Day 2

(a) The registered provider and a named person to deputise were present.

(b) The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.

Day 1

Nine files including the file of the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)

(a)(b) The required number of written validated references were available in respect of eight files reviewed from past employers or from a source other than a past employer.

Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider from a past employer.

(c) A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the nine files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available in respect of eight adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(3) Evidence reviewed indicated that the procedures in respect of (2)(c)(d) were carried out by the registered provider prior to the employment of all eight staff.

Evidence reviewed indicated that the procedures in respect of (2)(a)(b) were carried out by the registered provider prior to the employment of six out of eight staff.

(4) One adult held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications and all other adults working directly with the children held a qualification deemed to be equivalent or a letter of eligibility to practice from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality.

(7)

(a) The induction policy for the service was available for review. Each staff member had signed a staff declaration to indicate that they had read and understood the policies and procedures of the service and that they would comply

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with the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

A statement was signed by each staff member in an excerpt from the staff handbook which included the receipt of the conditions of employment and service policies. Each staff member had signed a document to indicate that they had received a job description, contract of employment and participated in an induction programme as outlined in the document.

The staff training policy indicated that the service provides training to staff in the areas of manual handling, first aid, food hygiene, child protection and fire safety. Training certificates related to these areas were noted in some of the files reviewed. Introduction to Children First certificates were noted in six staff files reviewed.

Day 2

An additional staff member had been recruited and was present in the service providing direct care to the children. The file for this staff member was reviewed and the following was noted:

- (2)
- (a)(b) The registered provider had obtained 2 written and validated references from a past employer and a reputable source for the new staff member.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure had been obtained for the new staff member.
- (d) International police vetting had been obtained for the new staff member.
- (3) The new staff member had not commenced employment until the procedures required under Regulation (9)(2) were obtained.
- (4) The staff member held an appropriate qualification to work in Childcare.

Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)(b)
1. There was no evidence of the validation of three written references available in respect of two adults reviewed from a past employer or from a source other than a past employer.
 2. There was no written reference available in respect of one adult reviewed from a past employer or from a source other than a past employer.
- (3) There was no evidence to indicate that procedures in respect (2)(a)(b) were carried out by the registered provider prior to the employment of two out of eight staff present on day 1 of inspection.
- (7)(a)

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1. An induction training checklist was not in place to demonstrate that the service had provided any training to staff on the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5 beyond the staff signing to indicate that they had read and understood the policies and procedures of the service.
2. The staff training policy in reference to induction training stated that the “length of induction is tailored” and the availability of “an individual training record”. There was no evidence to indicate the length or duration of the induction process tailored to individual staff members. An individual training record was not available for review for staff members.

(7)(b)(c)

3. In respect of the staff files reviewed there was no evidence of training undertaken in the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b)

1. The Manager reviewed the matter and confirmed that employment verification has now been completed for the employees concerned.
2. Management made all reasonable efforts to obtain outstanding references for this employee. The employee is no longer working in the service. Going forward, no employee will be permitted to commence work or have access to children until all required recruitment and vetting documents have been received, checked, verified where applicable, and recorded on the staff file. This includes, but is not limited to, Garda Vetting, proof of qualifications, identity documentation, and two verified written references. As a prevention the service has created a new recruitment checklist and introduced a strict “no start without a complete file” control. The Manager will complete and sign a Pre-Hire Checklist before any new staff member starts work. This checklist will confirm that all required documentation is in place before employment commences. Also, we created an Employment Verification Form that will be sent to verify references.
3. A full audit of current staff files has also been completed to ensure that all possible corrections were made. In addition, the service has introduced a Pre-Hire Checklist to ensure that all required recruitment, vetting and reference documents are obtained, checked and recorded before an employee commences work.

9(7)(a)

1. The service has developed a comprehensive Induction Checklist for all new employees. The checklist is divided into clear categories to ensure that all required induction areas are covered in a structured and consistent way.

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Each task must be confirmed by both the employee and the employer, with signatures and the date of completion recorded. This ensures that there is clear evidence that each part of the induction has been completed and understood. The induction process is detailed and may take more than a few days to complete, depending on the employee's role, responsibilities, and training needs. The Manager, or a designated person, will be responsible for completing the Induction Checklist for all newly hired employees and, where required, existing employees. The structured format of the checklist will allow Management to track the progress of each employee's induction and monitor the length and completion of the overall induction process. Each section will be signed and dated by the relevant parties to provide clear evidence that the required induction tasks have been completed.

2. The service has created a comprehensive Induction Checklist, which will be completed with all employees. The length of the induction process may vary depending on each employee's previous experience, country of education, role, and individual capabilities. The induction process will therefore be adjusted to meet the needs of each employee and to ensure that all required areas are properly covered and understood. As different employees may require different amounts of time to complete the induction process, the flexible wording in the policy regarding the length of induction reflects this approach. The structured format of the checklist will allow Management to track the progress of each employee's induction and monitor the length and completion of the overall induction process. Each section will be signed and dated by the relevant parties to provide clear evidence that the required induction tasks have been completed.

(7)(b)(c)

3. The service developed a specific training session on the Child Care Act. This individual training applies now to all employees. Completion of this training has been added as a required part of the Induction Checklist. Both the training sheet and the relevant section of the Induction Checklist must be signed and dated by the employee and the Manager as evidence that the training has been completed and understood.

Supporting documentation submitted

Employment verification forms.

Pre hire checklist, employment verification form.

Induction checklist.

Training Child Care Act, Induction checklist, training sheet confirming completion of training.

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Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider had been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 9. This area will be assessed at the next inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were available in the service. These policies were reviewed and the content was found to be in keeping with the requirements of Regulation 10 with the exception of the non-compliance identified below.

- Behaviour Management Policy.
- Accident and Incidents Policy.
- Risk Management Policy.
- Staff Training Policy.
- Supervision Policy.

Non-Compliance Information

The following policy was found not to be in keeping with the requirements of Regulation 10.

1. The Risk Management policy did not state how long the risk management records will be kept.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The service has updated the Risk Management Policy by adding a table specifying the relevant retention periods for risk management records. This update provides clear guidance to Management and staff on how long these records must be retained and ensures consistency in record-keeping practices. The service has also reviewed the retention requirements set out in other relevant policies to ensure that they are aligned with applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Document.

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Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider had been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 10.

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 minimum ratio of adults to children was in place during both days of inspection.

(2) There were twenty-two children attending the service supervised directly by seven adults on day 1 of inspection.

There were twenty-four children attending the service supervised directly by seven adults on day 2 of inspection.

(8)(a) The staff roster indicated that two adults are on the premises at all times.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child.*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service.*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service.*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service.*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child.*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) The service kept and maintained records of information in relation to children attending the service in accordance with Regulation 15 (1)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h) and (i) in respect of a sample review of seven records relating to children attending the Cedar room and five records relating to four children attending and one child settling in the Maple tree room.

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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:

(c) details of the adult: child ratios in 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.

Compliance Information

(1) The service kept and maintained written records of information in relation to the service in accordance with Regulation 16 (1)(c)(h)(i)(j) and(k).

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

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that no corporal punishment is inflicted on a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.

Compliance Information

The focus of the inspection was the Birch, Cedar and Maple Tree rooms

(1)(a)

Basic needs of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. Food and snacks were provided at regular intervals during the day. Parents provided the morning snacks for the children and lunches were sourced from an external caterer and

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reheated in the service daily. Young children had the opportunity to feed themselves and their drinks were within their reach throughout the day should they feel thirsty.

Nappy changing was completed regularly and promptly when required. It was handled in a sensitive and positive manner.

The individual sleep needs of the children were met. A staff member responsible for caring for children at sleep time was able to describe how children are checked at 10 minute intervals when sleeping. Records of sleep checks are maintained electronically.

The adults working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children's first names, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used by the staff members during interactions.

Supporting relationships around children:

Staff members were observed being respectful and kind towards the children in their care.

The service has an open-door policy for parents. Information was shared with parents and guardians at the drop off and collection times and the electronic communication application was used to share details of each children's day including food eaten, toileting / nappies changed / sleep duration and daily activities completed.

Physical and material environment:

Soft furnishings provided suitable and adequate rest facilities in the pre-school rooms. Fifteen low level beds were available for children over the age of two who required rest or sleep. A separate sleep room was equipped with ten cots. Individual identifiable cots were in place for the children.

The outdoor area was located at the rear and side of the premises; it was a spacious and had a covered area which enabled its use during inclement weather.

(2) The behaviour management policy states that corporal punishment is not permitted in the service.

(3) The staff members in the care rooms inspected were observed being kind and respectful towards the children in their care. First names, appropriate eye contact and vocal tones were used during interactions with the children. The staff members in Birch and Maple Tree rooms were observed to hold and comfort children.

There was emphasis on positive praise and encouragement observed during the inspection. Staff members were aware of the behaviour management policy, and the practices required to manage children's behaviours appropriate to their age and stage of development. They were able to identify prohibited care practices when asked by the inspector.

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A care plan for a child had been revised when it was brought to the registered providers attention that the care plan was not in line with the services behaviour management policy.

Non-Compliance Information

Basic needs of children:

1. The staff members did not respond promptly to children displaying signs of sleep and put them in a cot for sleep as evidenced by the following observations:
 - A child was observed lying on the ground in the outdoor area with their eyes closed. The child was observed a little later lying across a swing seat. The Early Years Inspector requested that the child be provided with a cot for sleep.
 - A child was observed sleeping in a staff members arm with a soother and a comfort blanket.
2. There was no evidence of menu planning for the afternoon snack and evening meal for the children on a daily basis.
3. Milk was not offered to the children as a drink with meals.

Physical and material environment:

4. In the Maple Tree room, a window blind was not in place on the single large, glazed panel window to support the regulation of the room light and temperature for the comfort of the children age 1- 2 years in attendance.
5. The physical and material environment in Cedar room was not constructively planned, considered or presented from a child's perspective. The indoor environment did not have interesting play and learning spaces which provided developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences that facilitated child led play. It is acknowledged that there was materials and resources present however they were on shelving out of reach of children or in protective covers / boxes.
6. The defined areas of interest were inadequately resourced and presented as evidenced by the following observations:
 - The home corner consisted of a wooden play kitchen unit placed against a wall on one side of an external door. There were five pieces of associative equipment on top of a resource unit on the other side of the external door, a buggy with a doll was located in another part of the room, there was no obvious dress up clothing, no real-life materials. The area was not an inviting space for the children to engage in child led play and limited their imaginative play.
 - The construction area consisted of a wooden unit against a wall. A wooden carry box and a toy drill were observed on the resource unit alongside the materials for the play kitchen.
 - There were five hardback books on the ground in the reading area some of which were ripped apart.

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- There was no sensorial area provided. Sensorial materials such as sand, water, shredded paper, rice/ pasta/ lentils mix were not available. A selection of coloured playdough was observed in small containers stored on a shelf in a resource unit.
 - There was no evidence of natural, real life or open-ended materials available to the children for self-directed imaginative play opportunities
7. There was no evidence that a programme of activities had been developed by the staff members in Cedar room to support the children's learning and development. The transition following snack and after the children returned from outdoor play lacked planning and preparedness to ensure that the children were continuously engaged in their play. Activities were adult led and the children were managed as a group rather than play choices offered. Children were observed wandering, sometimes running around the room aimlessly, climbing on tables, two children were observed writing on the walls with colouring pencils. Some children interacted with the Early Years Inspector.

This was a non-compliance following inspection conducted on 26 January 2026. The corrective action submitted by the registered provider following the inspection failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Basic needs of children:

1. All staff members have been reminded of the importance of meeting each child's individual sleep and rest needs and utilize our big sleep room. At the time of the inspection, the service was in the process of implementing a revised sleep routine. There were also a number of new children attending the service, each with different sleep needs. Since then, the new sleep routine has been successfully implemented and allows staff to better respond to the individual sleep and rest requirements of each child. Management has also reinforced that parents' individual requests regarding sleep and rest should be considered and accommodated where appropriate. In addition, the main sleep room has been rearranged, and the new classrooms have been adjusted so that they can also be used appropriately during sleep and rest times. These changes will support a more flexible approach and help ensure that children's individual sleep and rest needs are consistently met.
2. The service has created a weekly menu that clearly includes both the afternoon snack and the evening meal. The weekly menu is kept available in the Creche at all times. The service also ensures that sufficient food supplies are maintained on site to meet the children's needs for the full week, in line with the weekly menu.

3. Children who can have milk are offered milk on a daily basis, particularly at breakfast time. All Educators have been informed that milk should be offered to children with all meals, where appropriate and in line with each child's dietary requirements, allergies, and parental preferences.

Physical and material environment:

4. The roller blinds were installed in the Maple and Cedar room.
5. We acknowledge that the organisation of this room required significant improvement at the time of the inspection. Some resources and toys were not being made sufficiently accessible to the children, which limited the quality of the learning environment and children's opportunities for independent play and exploration. Since the inspection, the service has taken a number of corrective actions to improve the room environment. Additional toys, materials and learning resources have been purchased from a range of providers, with a significant investment made to support the development of the room. As a result, the classroom is now more inviting, better organised, and more suitable for supporting children's play, learning and development. Roller blinds have also been installed in the room to improve the environment and support children's comfort throughout the day. We also bought more play dough and sensory items like lava tiles. All Educators have been informed that children must have appropriate access to toys, resources and learning materials, and that these items should not be hidden or stored away from the children unless there is a specific safety reason. The service has also requested support from an external agency to support quality development. These measures will help ensure that the classroom remains well resourced, inviting, and appropriately organised for the children.
6. The service supported the Educator in reorganising the areas of interest within the room to make the learning environment more inviting, accessible and developmentally appropriate for the children. The following improvements have been made:
 - The home corner has been relocated to a more suitable area of the room and additional resources have been added to support imaginative and role-play activities.
 - A full-size dress-up area has been created and fully equipped with appropriate materials.
 - Real-life materials are now available in clearly accessible containers within the room.
 - The different areas of interest have been more clearly separated, making the room easier for children to navigate and encouraging more focused play.
 - The construction area has been placed separately and has been equipped with a wider range of new toys and resources, including interactive toys.
 - Additional books, including interactive books, have been added to the room to support language development and early literacy.

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- Natural materials have also been introduced to support sensory exploration and open-ended play.
7. The service has always supported Educators in obtaining materials and resources needed to arrange their classrooms effectively. However, we recognise that encouraging Educators to plan and provide interesting activities may not always be sufficient, and that external guidance may be required in some circumstances. For this reason, the service has sought external support from the County Childcare Committee and a quality improvement organisation. The newly appointed Educator has also created a programme of interesting and age-appropriate activities for the children. During April and May, the main topics included well-known painters and different artistic styles, including painting with geometric figures and creating portraits inspired by fruit and vegetables. Following the implementation of the above changes, children are now more actively engaged in meaningful play and planned activities.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Not required.
2. Menu.
3. Not required.
- 4 Photographs of the roller Blinds Maple Room / Roller Blinds Cedar Room.
5. HIVE application for quality improvement programme/ Cedar room environments.
6. Photographs of Cedar room environment and redeveloped areas of interest.
7. Evidence of curriculum planning, daily and weekly activity records, evidence of records where the Educator recorded the children's emergent interests and incorporated this into the programme of activities.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider had been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 19. This area of practice will be reviewed at the next inspection.

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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 entrance door was secure to ensure the safety of the children within. The outdoor area at the rear and side of the premises was secured by high perimeter wall, metal fencing and electromagnetically controlled gates. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents. The inspectors signed the visitor log on arrival.

Infection Control:

Cleaning schedules were available and reviewed. The toys and materials were easily cleanable. Warm running water, liquid soap and hand towel dispensers were available in the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing area. The water temperature at the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation was recorded at 37.9°C. The sanitary accommodation and nappy changing areas were ventilated by mechanical ventilation. Foot operated pedal bins for the hygienic disposal of waste were provided in the pre-school rooms and associated sanitary accommodation. Soothers were individually labelled and stored hygienically.

Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered during the inspection. Temperature reducing medication was available in a secure location in the service if a child presented with a high temperature. A record sheet for the administration of medicine with parental consent and two staff signatures was in place for each child in their record folder.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Visibility strips were not in place on the glazed panels throughout the premises for young children to recognise glass. It is acknowledged that the registered provider took a temporary corrective action when the hazard was brought to their attention by the Early Years Inspector.
2. In Cedar room, eight children age 1-3 years were unable to place their feet on the ground for stability as the chairs they were sitting on were the wrong height for them to sit on safely. This created a risk of injury to a child if they were to fall off a chair.

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3. In the Maple Tree room where five children age 1- 2 years were in attendance it was observed that the highchairs in use did not offer a sufficient base of support to the children as footrests were not in place on the highchairs.
4. In Cedar room, a child was observed to have uncut grapes and olives for their snack. The staff members took corrective action when requested by the Early Years Inspector.
5. A roll of plastic bags was placed on the radiator in the sanitary area in Cedar room and accessible to a pre-school child.

Infection Control:

6. A step-by-step nappy changing procedure was not displayed in the nappy changing areas to aid staff with the hygienic changing of children's nappies.
7. The nappy changing practice observed was inadequate for infection control purposes:
 - Staff did not wash their hands before nappy changing.
 - As there was no area or space provided soiled nappies placed in disposable nappy bags were placed into the wash hand basin.
 - The children were redressed by the staff wearing the gloves used for nappy changing.
8. The surface cleaner used to clean down the nappy changing mat after use was not used as per the manufacturer's instructions to ensure appropriate infection control measures.
9. Paper towel rolls were not placed in dispensers for hygienic dispensing for infection control purposes in the Birch, Cedar and Maple Tree rooms.
10. Sanitary accommodation was used for storage as evidenced by the following observations and posed a potential risk of cross contamination:
 - Paint brushes and trays were observed in one of the wash hand basins in the sanitary accommodation shared between Birch and Maple tree rooms
 - Play equipment and children's clothing was stored in the sanitary accommodation in Cedar room.

Administration of Medication:

11. Emergency medication for a named child was stored in a refrigerator contrary to the directions for storage detailed on the medicine.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Visibility strips have now been installed on the high-level windows in the classrooms to improve visibility and reduce the risk of accidental collisions, thereby supporting children's safety within the service. Going forward, all high-level windows will have visibility strips installed at children's eye level.
2. The service has ensured that the Cedar Room is equipped with both lower-level and higher-level chairs, so that seating can be selected according to each child's height and individual needs. All Educators have been instructed to select and use chairs according to each child's height, to ensure that children are seated safely and comfortably, with their feet able to touch the floor where appropriate.
3. In the Maple Tree Room and other rooms attended by children aged 1–2 years, the legs of the highchairs have been shortened to ensure that children can touch the floor with their feet while seated. This supports safer and more comfortable seating during mealtimes and activities. In addition, further highchairs have been purchased so that the service has sufficient seating available, including spare chairs where needed. In the rooms for children 1-2 years only highchairs with short legs will be used.
4. All Educators have been reminded of the requirement to check children's snack boxes to ensure that pieces of fruit and other food items are cut to an appropriate size and do not present a choking risk. The service has ensured that all Educators are aware of the requirement to check children's snack boxes and monitor the size of fruit pieces and other food items to reduce any choking risk. Parents have also been reminded of the importance of cutting fruit and other food items into appropriate sizes before sending them into the Creche.
5. The service has ensured that all Educators are aware of the risk that a roll of plastic bags, or similar items, can pose to children. Educators have been reminded that such items must be kept out of children's reach at all times and stored safely to reduce any potential risk. All Educators and the Manager have been reminded to remain vigilant during daily risk assessment and to regularly check the rooms and areas used by children for any items that may pose a risk, including plastic bags or similar materials. Any such items must be removed immediately and stored safely out of children's reach.

Infection Control:

6. The service has developed a visual nappy changing procedure, which is now displayed beside each nappy changing unit. This provides clear and consistent guidance for staff and supports good hygiene practice during nappy changing routines.

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7. The manager made sure that all employees are aware of the proper procedure of changing nappies. During the next team meeting, the service will provide a refresher session for all employees on the nappy changing procedure to ensure that the process is understood and followed consistently. In addition, nappy changing training has now been included as a required part of the Induction Checklist for all new employees. This will ensure that all staff receive clear guidance on the correct procedure before carrying out nappy changing duties.
8. The manager made sure that the proper surface cleaner is used in nappy changing procedure and informed educators of a proper use. Only proper surface cleaners will be used and according to their purpose.
9. Blue rolls dispensers were installed beside every nappy changing unit. Management is now aware that blue roll should not be left loose or unsecured in the nappy changing area. Going forward, blue roll will only be used from an appropriate dispenser to ensure it is stored and accessed safely during the nappy changing procedure.
10. The service has ensured that all Educators are aware of the risks associated with leaving items in hand wash basins or in other parts of sanitary areas. Educators have been reminded that hand wash basins must remain clear and accessible at all times to support proper hand hygiene and to reduce any potential health and safety risks.

Administration of Medication:

11. The Manager has confirmed that this particular medication is now stored outside the fridge, in line with its storage requirements. Educators who have access to the kitchen have been informed of the correct storage requirements for this medication and have been reminded to ensure that medication is stored in line with its individual instructions at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photograph of visibility strips.
2. Photographs of low chairs.
3. Highchairs with shortened legs.
4. Not required.
5. Photograph.

Infection Control:

6. Nappy changing procedure / Photographs of nappy changing units.
7. Nappy change procedure. Induction checklist / Nappy changing procedure.
8. Not required.
9. Photograph of nappy changing areas.

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10. Photograph of nappy changing areas.

Administration of Medication:

11. Not required.

Summary Comment

The written response, photographic and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider had been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 23. This area will be assessed at the next inspection.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (a) Fire drills were not undertaken on a monthly basis. Records indicated that a fire drill was undertaken on the 14/04/2026. Fire drills must be undertaken on a monthly basis to familiarise children with the routine of existing the building in the event of an emergency occurring.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a) The service identified that fire drills had not been carried out during the January–March period. We acknowledge that this was identified later than it should have been and that fire drills must be completed regularly in line with the service's fire safety procedures. Since this was identified, two fire drills have been carried out. The service treats fire drills and evacuation practice very seriously, and Management has reviewed practical arrangements to improve the effectiveness and speed of evacuation. As part of this review, the service tested different evacuation methods and purchased special evacuation carts for children aged 1–2 years. These have proven to be more effective than using cots on wheels and have helped to improve the evacuation process for younger children. Fire drills are now scheduled in the service calendar for approximately the middle of each month.

Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(a) Fire drill 1 / Fire drill 2 documents.

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Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider had been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for regulation 26(1)(a).

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Children were supervised by staff in the Birch, Cedar and Maple Tree rooms during play activities both indoors and outdoors during the inspection. There was an adult present with sleeping children aged over 2 years who slept on low level beds.

Staff in the Maple Tree room were observed to use the in-room wall mounted telephone communication system to summon assistance and supervision cover when required.

Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.

Compliance Information

The registered provider and the person in charge furnished all information as reasonably required by the Agency for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations.