

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR057
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Name of Service:	Tigers Leopardstown
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Address of Service:	Leopardstown Centre, Ballyogan Road, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 WD62
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Noonan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	11/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	60	PM	60
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	S Quigley & L Magee
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

Tigers Leopardstown is a privately owned service and is one of a number of services operated by the registered provider. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged 0 - 6 years and also offers an early childhood care and education scheme. The service is registered to operate from 07:30 to 18:30 each weekday and is located in an urban residential area of Leopardstown, South County Dublin. The service operates from a purposely built two storey premises within a mixed-use retail park and consists of eight care rooms. A large fully enclosed outdoor play area is available and located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 23 staff members, including a designated person in charge, a cleaner and a cook. On the day of inspection, 23 adults were present including 4 adults from an external employment agency. An area manager arrived at the service following the inspector's arrival to facilitate the inspection. The registered provider does not work directly in the service but was present via video link for feedback.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Junior Discoveries 1 room, the Senior Discoveries 2 room, the Explorers 2 room, and the Junior Active Cubs room.

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.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN 0124	11/05/2026	There was no international police vetting with a certified translation available for one staff member present on inspection from an EU member state who had been Garda vetted after the implementation of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider following service of the notice. The service submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventive actions undertaken which were accepted by the inspectorate.	

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) Following a discussion with the centre manager and a review of records, it was confirmed that 18 adults commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 15 April 2025. Documentation required under Regulation 9 (2)(4) was reviewed in respect of the 18 adults as detailed below. In addition, Garda vetting for two adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review as part of the inspection.

- (a) (b) There were two references each available for the adults which had been appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all 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 for all adults employed.
- (d) International police vetting with a certified translation was available for 16 of the 17 adults who required it that had lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation reviewed evidenced that 14 of the adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent. Four of the adults who did not hold a recognised qualification held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

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Non-Compliance Information

(9)(2)(d)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice 0124 served.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 60 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by 21 adults during the inspection.

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) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day which were prepared on site, including a hot lunch. Self-feeding was promoted in younger care rooms and staff assisted children where required. Bibs were provided to protect younger children's clothing. Children's nappies were changed routinely and as needed, with staff using these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently.

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Staff addressed children by name and spoke to them in gentle positive tones. Children were comforted promptly if they became upset.

A rest area was provided within each room where the children could rest or take a break from activities. Children were given the opportunity to sleep after lunch time where required and babies in Junior Discoveries 1 were placed to sleep in line with their individual care needs. The children were made comfortable for sleep, with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers and comforters to those who used them. Staff provided comfort to children where required when going to sleep, offering reassurance by sitting beside them and speaking softly. A record was kept for staff to communicate with parents/guardians regarding individual children's care, including information about diet, sleep, and nappy changes.

The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child-led and children were observed to be content in their play-based activities throughout the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

1. In the Senior Discoveries 2 room, 3 children were visibly upset and displaying signs of tiredness, crying, yawning and rubbing their eyes at 10:29am. The children were not placed to sleep until the designated sleep time after dinner at 12:00pm.
2. Two children in the Senior Discoveries 2 room had wet clothing from dribbling and handwashing during the morning of inspection and were not changed until sleep time at approximately 12:12pm.
3. Some children attending the Senior Discoveries 2 room had a heavy build-up of dried nasal discharges and running nose throughout the morning of inspection and were not cleaned by staff members.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Following the inspection a staff meeting was held. During the meeting educators were reminded to ensure children noses are cleaned throughout the day. Children clothes are to be changed as soon as possible if they have gotten wet & bibs are to be used to help prevent clothes getting wet from dribbling. Educators were reminded to follow children's cues for sleep and if they are tired to place them down for a nap. Management will complete spot checks in the room to ensure children's comfort is being maintained at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff, and inspection of the premises that the registered providers had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised. There were no hazards identified in the indoor or outdoor play environments.

Infection Control:

Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste. Staff were observed to have good hand hygiene and supported children to wash hands at appropriate times. Cleaning schedules were in place and the care rooms were observed to be clean. Staff followed infection control procedures to prevent cross contamination during nappy changing, in line with the service policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications. There were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. Care plans were in place for children who required regular or emergency medication, and staff were familiar with these plans. A sample of the administration of medication documents reviewed contained the necessary details.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance and placed babies on their backs to sleep. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep rooms and the younger care rooms. Individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available

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for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. During discussions with the inspector, staff members in Junior Discoveries 1 stated that wet cotton wool is the only mechanism used to clean the babies' hands throughout the day. This is at variance with the infection control policy in place in the service and ineffective for the prevention of cross contamination.

Fire Safety:

2. It is acknowledged that a record of fire drills completed was available in the service and staff members were aware of the procedures in place for evacuation. However, during discussions with the inspectors four staff members who had been working in the service for several months stated they had never practiced a fire drill in the service. This may hinder the safe and timely evacuation of children and staff in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. Handwashing was reviewed with the Junior discovers 1 room, and the importance of the correct handwashing procedures was reiterated. Management will conduct spot checks to ensure handwashing is done correctly to prevent cross contamination.

Fire Safety:

2. A fire drill was conducted in the days following the inspection to ensure all educators were aware of their roles when the fire alarm sounds. The fire drill procedure was also discussed at the staff meeting. Monthly fire drills will be conducted with all educators to ensure they are aware of the correct procedures and their roles during a fire drill.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

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Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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.

- (1)
An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children on the day of inspection.
- (2)
(a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.
(b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of 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, 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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service.
(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced within the required timeframes.

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(4)

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous locations within the service.