

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS168
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Name of Service:	Tallaght Child Care Centre
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Address of Service:	St. Dominics Road, Millbrook Lawns, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 K3EV
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Name of Registered Provider:	Liz Jackson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	36	PM	30
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

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

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Description of service

Tallaght Childcare Centre provides full day, part time and sessional care for children from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is registered to operate from 08:00 to 17:30, Monday to Friday. The service is situated in an urban, residential area of Tallaght, south Dublin. The premises is a detached single storey purpose-built facility. There are three care rooms in the service. The Waddler room caters for children from 1 to 2 years of age. The Toddler room caters for children from 2 to 3 years of age and the Pre-school room caters for children from 3 to 5 years of age. The service has a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the building.

Staffing

The service currently employs 20 adults including the registered provider, centre manager, finance manager, administration manager, receptionist, chef and caretaker. There were 10 staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection. The registered provider was present on the day of inspection.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(4) - Management and recruitment,

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Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8)(a) - Staffing levels,
Regulation 15(1) – Record in Relation to a Pre-School Child,
Regulation 16(1)(h)(i)(j)(k) -
Regulation 19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare and development of child,
Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,
Regulation 25 – First Aid
Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child and regulation 16 – Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the 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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service throughout the inspection.

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(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were six new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 24 July 2024. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

Documentation was reviewed in respect of six adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (a) Of the 12 validated, written references that were required, 9 were available from a past employer.
- (b) Of the 12 validated, written references that were required, 3 were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 20 staff members demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.
- (d) Police vetting was not required as there was no evidence to suggest that any staff member had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(3)

The records outlined in regulation 9(2) above were dated prior to the commencement date of employment of the adults in the service.

(4)

Records were available demonstrating that all adults employed to work directly with the children since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 36 children attending the service being supervised by 10 adults on the morning of inspection and 30 children being supervised by 6 adults in the afternoon.

8(a)

There was a minimum of two adults on the premises at all times during the inspection. This was confirmed on review of the staff roster.

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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)(a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i)

A sample of 10 children's records were reviewed on a hardcopy record and the record required in writing in relation to the regulation above was kept for each child.

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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:

- (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)
- (h) Children's attendance was recorded on a hardcopy record on the day of inspection. These records included details of each child's arrival and departure times from the service.
- (i) A record of the staff roster was available and was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (j) A sample of 17 administration of medication records were reviewed in a hardcopy book and were completed as required by the regulation.
- (k) A sample of 11 accident and incident records were reviewed on hardcopy records, and all were completed as required by the regulation.

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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)

Meals were provided at regular intervals, and drinking water was accessible to children in the Waddler room, Toddler room and Pre-school room throughout the day. A dinner of beef stew and mashed potato was served from 11:30 and was prepared onsite on the day of inspection. All children in the Waddler room were given bibs for dinnertime. Staff sat with children during their dinner and children in the Waddler room were encouraged to feed themselves. Staff were observed providing additional portions to children who requested more in the Waddler room.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's hands and faces were cleaned after meals. Children's wet or soiled clothing was changed promptly. Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care.

An area was provided within each of the care rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities. There was a designated nap time for children. All children were made comfortable for sleep; staff removed children's shoes and outer clothing; they provided the children with blankets, and they offered soothers to those who used them.

Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children. Children were comforted promptly when they became upset. Staff were observed holding children and speaking to them softly. Staff were observed to use distraction, gentle tones and praise when promoting positive behaviour.

Staff members described how they communicate with parents daily about their child at arrival and collection times detailing information on food, sleep and nappy changes. Parents were observed in the service during collection times.

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A fully enclosed outdoor play area was located to the front of the premises and had shock absorbent surfacing. A range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided in the outdoor play area.

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 toys and play equipment observed in use by the children in the indoor and outdoor areas on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.
- Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in the sanitary accommodation available for all care rooms.
- 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 dinner in the Waddler room.
- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared to be clean.

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Administration of Medication:

- An adequate administration of medication record was available to document medication given should this be required in an emergency. All staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the services administration of medication policy and procedure.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs of the children in the Waddler and Toddler rooms were child led but there was also a designated time for sleep after dinner. The service had an adequate number of floor beds to accommodate the age profile of the children who required sleep. All shoes and heavy clothing were removed before children who required sleep were placed on floor beds. Each care room had a cosy area for children to use who did not sleep during their day. Sleeping children's breathing, position and colour was recorded in addition to the temperature of the designated cot room in the Waddler room and Toddler room.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were clearly identifiable and were not obstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The nappy changing practices were inadequate on the day of inspection to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination as evidenced by the following:
 - One staff member was observed during a nappy change to redress the child wearing the same soiled glove from the nappy change.
 - Two staff members were observed to lift the lid of a pedal bin to dispose of a nappy bag after the nappy change.
 - One staff member observed a child lift the lid of the pedal bin to dispose of paper towel after handwashing.
 - One staff member was not observed to wash their hands after carrying out a nappy change and before returning to the care room.

Administration of Medication:

- While it is acknowledged that care plans were available for a number of children in the service, these plans require greater detail specifically for those children who may require emergency medical intervention.

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The care plans available on the day of inspection were not in line with the services administration of medication policy relating to emergency medication which states that “...develop individual care plans which will include the management, in the event of an emergency, relating to the condition. This will be developed in conjunction with the parents and the child’s medical advisers, Where a child has a condition that may require emergency medical treatment, staff will be trained on the condition and the treatment, This would include medications like Ventolin, Glucagon or Epi-pen”.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

To correct the non-compliance, all staff have been retrained in the services nappy changing protocol. They have been advised to adhere to the protocol that is displayed in the nappy changing area at all times. The childcare manager will spot check nappy changing regularly and ensure it is being carried out correctly.

Signs have been put on all pedal bins and signs placed in nappy changing area and toilets reminding staff and children to wash their hands.

To prevent reoccurrence of this non-compliance, the childcare manager delivered refresher training to all early years educators in the service. This will be carried out every 4 months for all early years educators and as part of new staff members induction training. We have updated our Nappy Changing Protocol that is displayed in the nappy changing area.

Administration of Medication:

To correct the non-compliance here, the registered provider will write to all parents regarding an update to the services administration of medication procedure. The service has developed a health care & medication plan that will be given to all parents to complete alongside the referring GP and by the staff team.

The service will not administer any medication unless the form has been completed and all relevant staff have been trained in.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary evidence of review of nappy changing protocol and nappy changing competency checklist for staff.

Administration of Medication:

Documentary evidence of an updated medication care plan and medication care plan letter for parents.

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Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1)

A person trained in first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children were safely stored and easily accessible on the premises.

(b) First aid boxes were immediately available to children staff brought these to the garden with children's emergency medication during outdoor playtime.

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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) There was evidence of regular fire drills having taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on 19 May 2026.
 - (b) There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated 19 March 2026 respectively.
- (4)
- There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within the care rooms and the main hallway of the building.