

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY061
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Name of Service:	Doras Buí
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Address of Service:	Doras Buí, Bunratty Drive, Coolock, Dublin 17, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D17 TF63
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anita Whelan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	30/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	54	PM	42
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne E Hosford
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Doras Buí is a community-based service located in the Family Resource Centre in Coolock, Dublin 17. The service operates from 8:30am-6.00pm and provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to preschool children from 0-6 years. The service has 4 care rooms: the Waddler room (10 months to 2 years), Toddler room (2 to 3 years), Preschool room 2 (4 to 5 years) on the ground floor, and the Preschool room 1 (3 to 4 years) on the first floor. The service has one sleep room with four cots present. There are two outdoor areas – one to the front of the premises accessed by the Waddler room and one to the rear of the premises with an indoor room and sensory room available to the Toddler, Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 29 adults who work in the service to include; the person in charge, deputy person in charge, 20 childcare staff working directly with the children, one of whom is employed under the Access and Inclusion Model, one relief childcare staff member, a pedagogical leader, 2 cooks, a kitchen assistant, a cleaner, a maintenance person and a receptionist. The registered provider does not directly work in the service.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

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

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25, and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16 Record in relation to Preschool service (j), (k), Regulation 23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of child. Regulation 11 Staffing levels was assessed across all rooms. As a result, the scope of the inspection included all four care rooms - Waddler, Toddler, Preschool 1 and Preschool 2 rooms.

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, deputy person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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) It was confirmed by the person in charge that four new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection. The files of the four adults were reviewed as part of the inspection along with Garda Vetting disclosures for 18 staff member whose file was reviewed on the last inspection and required review.

(a) Four written and validated references were available from a past employer.

(b) Two written and validated reference were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 22 adults. The service had also adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for one staff who have lived outside of the State for longer than six months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

The adult child ratios during the morning session were maintained as follows;

Waddler Room: 4 adults to 10 children aged between 10 months to 2 years.

Toddler Room: 3 adults to 14 children aged between 2-3 years.

Preschool 1 Room: 3 adults to 15 children aged between 3 -4 years.

Preschool 2 Room: 4 adults to 15 children aged between 4 -5 years

The adult child ratios during the afternoon session were maintained as follows:

Waddler Room: 3 adults to 9 children aged between 10 months to 2 years.

Toddler Room: 3 adults to 12 children aged between 2-3 years.

Preschool 1 Room: 3 adults to 9 children aged between 3 - 4 years.

Preschool 2 Room: 3 adults to 12 children aged between 4 -5 years.

with one additional staff present to support break cover and nappy changing.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were always present on the premises.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was completed accurately in attendance record books.
- (i) Staff roster was available demonstrating hours each staff worked.
- (j) A review of ten medication administration records demonstrated that all the details were completed on each record.
- (k) A review of ten accident and incident records demonstrated that all the details were completed on each record.

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,*

Compliance Information

Basic Needs:

- The service has a four-week menu and provided meals and snacks at regular intervals and a hot meal to the children. On the day of inspection, the inspector observed morning snack was served at 11.15 of blueberries, oranges and yogurt and a hot meal cooked by the chef in the kitchen on site, was served at

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

1.15pm in the care rooms of fish fingers, mashed potato and beans. The service served breakfast between 8 and 9am, and afternoon snack at 3pm.

- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink and milk was made available at mealtimes.
- All children in each room were observed to enjoy outdoor play during the inspection.
- Nappy changing and toileting were respectful and positive experiences for the children, and staff were observed to be present to support and encourage the children to be independent in managing their personal care such as handwashing.
- Children's need for sleep and rest was met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available in each care room. Four cots with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep, in the cot room off the Waddler room. Low beds were also available and set up in the Waddler room at sleep time.

Supporting relationships around children:

- Staff were observed to have respectful, warm and responsive interactions with the children through the use of soft tones and positive non-verbal communication strategies.
- In the Preschool 2 room, staff were observed to be engaged with and sit with the children during play time and having positive interactions during play activities of plastic bricks, plastic cubes, magnetics and blackboard drawing. The staff were responsive to the children with positive engagements.
- Staff members supported each other in the provision of care to the children.

Physical and Material Environment

- The Waddler, Toddler and Preschool 2 care rooms were clean, bright, organised and well laid out in defined areas of interest.
- Low level shelving and child sized accessible and available tables and chairs supported children's independence.
- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment accessible and available to them.
- Two outdoor play areas were available for the children. Outdoor play area 1 to the front of the service was available to the children in the Waddler room. Outdoor play area 2 to the rear of the service was available to the Toddler room, Preschool room 1 and Preschool room 2. It had a soft artificial grass surface with a concrete path for bike riding: the equipment and toys available included a large climbing frame with two slides, a bridge ramp with two tunnels underneath the bridge for gross motor play, a picnic

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

table, wheelbarrow, seesaws, trikes, balance bikes. The Outdoor play area 2 has an indoor room was equipped with sensory play equipment. The service also has a sensory room available to the children to the rear of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and Material environment:

1. In the Preschool room 1, the equipment and materials were not organised and inviting spaces for the children to engage and explore to develop their learning opportunities and experiences, for example:
 - Areas of interest were not equipped with adequate and available support equipment for play in the home corner with the kitchen and for dolls present.
 - Dolls had no clothes and one buggy present was broken and could not be pushed.
 - Heads of dolls for hairdressing activity were in poor condition and no longer available for play due to their poor condition.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- Room meeting held regarding resetting of room at clean up time and the importance of organisation and how area is not inviting to children if not organised.
- Staff meeting on day of inspection so Early years manager was able to talk to staff following verbal feedback from inspector.
- Meeting with Senior early years practitioner from Preschool 1 to put plan in place to develop areas with fresh new equipment stored in designated spaces.
- Equipment ordered that will develop areas of room that materials were not adequate.
- Nurture team will do spot checks on all areas of all rooms at different times of the day to look at room organisation, equipment on offer and advise for areas of development , highlight gaps in rooms and make suggestions what they can do to develop rooms for childrens learning opportunities and will report to the Early years management on a monthly basis. They will report issues arising who it has been assigned to where development is at and expected completion date.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Staff meeting minutes from 30 March 2026, Pictures of new equipment in organised areas, Invoices showing equipment purchases

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 19 has been adequately addressed.

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:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured and monitored by reception of the service, to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of reach. Blind cords, flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children and cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The water temperature in the sanitary accommodation in the service did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- The two outdoor areas were a safe and secure environment with play equipment and materials clean and suitable for use by the children.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled water, soap and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after nappy changing, after bathroom visits and before and after mealtimes.
- All food at mealtimes were served on plates.
- Nappy changing facilities were available for the children and nappy changing was completed for the children, at set times or when required in accordance with the service policy.
- During sleep time, cots were positioned with the recommended 50 centimetres between each child.

Safe Sleep:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Children were facilitated to sleep in cots, or stackable beds in the sleep room or care room, with each child provided with suitable bed linen for sleep.
- Staff maintained 10-minute sleep checks on each child to include their colour, breathing and position. The temperature of the room was also recorded to ensure it was maintained within the recommended temperature of 16-20 °C for under 1 years and 18°C to 22°C for over 1-year olds.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In Preschool 1 room a press was observed to be unlocked with staff coats and belongings accessible on low shelves to the children. This poses potential risk of safety and injury to children.

Infection Control:

2. Infection control practices observed were at variance with the service policy and best practice guidelines. For example.
 - No Paper towel was available in the Preschool 1 room sanitary facility for drying childrens hands after hand washing.
 - In the sanitary facilities of the Preschool 2 room and in Toddler room, the paper towel for drying hands after handwashing, was sitting outside of the dispenser.
 - The seat of a chair present in the back room of the Preschool 1 room was torn therefore could not be effectively cleaned.

Administration of Medication:

3. It is acknowledged that care plans were completed for children but detail relating to procedures in place for the administration of medication were unclear and could lead to a risk of safety to a child, as follows:
 - For one child, there was a care plan present but no required listed medication available and in addition for a different medication present, there was no care plan.
 - For two children, the care plans present were missing the name of the medication required to be administered in the event whereby medicine would be required to be administered.

No medication was administered to a child during the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

4. The service did not adhere to best practice sleep guidelines issued to the sector in September 2023 regarding consultation and written agreement from parents prior to positioning children under the age of 2 years on low contour beds. For example, one child under two years of age was observed sleeping on a low contour bed on the day of inspection and staff informed the inspector that three other children under

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

the age of 2 usually sleep on low contour beds. The required documentation was not available to demonstrate that a risk assessment had been completed for the children and that parents had been involved in the decision to place their child on a low contour bed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Staff in Preschool 1 room spoken to about concerning issue arising of personal belonging being stored in room presses. Health and Safety team will discuss next meeting and Early years staff on team as part of their role will be asked to complete spot checks on all room storage for personal belongings and update at each meeting if this comes up again.

Infection Control:

2. Staff meeting 30 March 2026, held to ensure blue roll present and available all day in the service.

Administration of Medication:

3. Discussion at staff meeting 30 March 2026 regarding gaps in care plans in preschool 1 room. Children who have care plans in place key worker reviewed all care plans and updated where required to make sure clear information is present and available Early years manager will review and sign off on care plans following parental meeting going forward.

Safe Sleep:

4. Children individual sleep plans where reviewed and updated based on Tusla safe sleep template. All parents were met and updated form complete and on file for future inspections. Daily sleep room assessment will now be completed on a new electronic application to prevent any gaps accruing in future.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Photographic Evidence, Minutes of health and safety meeting

Infection Control:

2. Staff meeting 30 March 2026 minutes

Administration of Medication:

3. Staff meeting 30 March 2026 minutes

Safe Sleep:

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

4. Updated form

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed

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 firefighting 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 of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 24 February 2026.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment demonstrating it was last serviced on the 21 January 2026 and for the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced on the 5 January 2026.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed throughout the care rooms and the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

(c)

The service was adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

(d)

1. Several areas of the Toddler room and sanitary facility required repair and maintenance:

- There was an unfinished surface behind one of the toilets
- One hot tap was unstable and not secure.
- Both taps at the sink in the Toddler room were loose.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d)

1. Loose taps fixed and unfinished surface at back of one toilet in the sanitary facility was repaired and painted by maintenance man. Discussion at staff meeting regarding staff role and responsibility in bringing these things to maintenance man and early years managers attention in timely manner if go uncomplete for agreed period of time.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Invoice for work done on taps by plumber 23 April 2026 work complete, Photographic evidence of area behind toilet to show work complete.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 29 have been adequately addressed.