

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY128
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Name of Service:	Little Treasures Community Creche
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Address of Service:	North Wall womens centre, Lower Sherriff Street, Dublin 1, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D01 K6V0
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Name of Registered Provider:	Oladele Akpata
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	11/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	34	PM	N/A
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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/D15CF9K
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).

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Description of service

Little Treasures Community Creche is a community run full day care and part time service located in a residential area in North Dublin which operates 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a two-storey building and is comprised of an office, kitchen, two cot rooms, a sensory room and three care rooms: Baby room catering for children aged 5months to 18 months, Wobbler/ Toddler room catering to children 18 months to 3years and the Preschool room catering to children aged 3 to 5 years. The service caters for 56 children aged 0-6 years and participates in the Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) scheme

Staffing

The registered provider is the general manager of the North Wall CDP which operates the creche and does not work directly with the children in the service. The service currently employs 28 staff - the registered provider, a deputy person in charge, a cook, a cleaner, 17 childcare staff, one of whom is currently on statutory leave and 7 staff employed through the Community Employment (CE) scheme who work in the service and are undergoing training. The registered provider was present for the duration of the 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, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 record in relation to a preschool service, regulation 23 safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms, Baby room and Preschool room and did not include Wobbler room/Toddler room as the children in this care room were gone on a summertime outing on the day of inspection.

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 registered provider, deputy person in charge, 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

(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 registered provider that no new staff members have been employed in the service since the last inspection on the 17 November 2025. Garda Vetting disclosures for two staff members whose file was reviewed on the last inspection were reviewed on this inspection.

(a) (b) Not requiring review.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the two adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Not requiring review.

(4) Not requiring review.

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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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children, there were 14 adults working with 34 children in the morning.
- (2)
- **Baby Room** - There was 2 adults working directly with 3 children aged 1 to 2 years.
 - **Wobbler / Toddler room** - There was 8 adults working with 19 children aged from 2 to 3 years.
 - **Preschool Room** - There was 4 adults working with 12 children aged from 3 years to 5 years.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced in staff rosters of the service.

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;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

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Compliance Information

- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis was completed accurately in attendance record books.
- (i) The service maintained a staff roster and a staff sign in roster to reflect the staff present in the service and the hours worked.

Non-Compliance Information

- (k) On review of 10 accident and incident forms, the following information was missing from the forms reviewed:
 - The surname of the child was missing from three forms.
 - The date of birth of the child was missing from four forms.
 - The parent's signature and date of signature was missing from three forms.
 - The date of the parent's signature was missing from five forms to confirm the day they were made aware of the accident/ incident.
 - The signature and date of the managers was missing from one form.
 - The date of the signature of manager was missing from four forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (k) The immediate action taken by the service to address the non-compliance included obtaining the correct dates for the children's records where details were missing and ensuring that the incident records were signed by both the manager and the parent/guardian. In addition, the remainder of the incident record book was reviewed and completed accurately, ensuring that all required information was recorded correctly and in full. To prevent this non-compliance from reoccurring, all staff attended a refresher session on the correct completion of the Incident Record Book on 3 July 2026. Staff were reminded of the importance of recording all required information accurately and were given the opportunity to complete a practice incident record to ensure they understood the correct procedures.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (k) Completed Accident / Incident records and sign in sheet of staff completing training 3 July 2026.

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Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the evidence and actions submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 16 have been adequately addressed.

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) The registered provider ensured the following care practices were in place to meet the needs of the children attending:

- Mealtimes were observed to be regular, which included breakfast at 9.30am, dinner from 12pm and tea at 2.30pm with snacks available throughout the day and with a set menu plan available for dinner, which was prepared and cooked in the service kitchen. On the day of inspection the meal served was chicken casserole with mashed potato and broccoli. Alternative food of chicken nuggets and beans was available for children with alternative diets. Drinks of water were available in the care rooms.
- Staff were available to support children during toileting and handwashing, whilst facilitating privacy and independence.
- Children's need for sleep and rest was met through the provision of comfortable rest areas available. Cots and low beds with individual bedding were available to the children who required sleep.
- Staff engaged with children in a warm, responsive manner, using strategies such as questioning and choice to engage children in activities.
- Children were observed to access gross motor play by using the Community Hall available on the rainy day of 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 service entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the early years' service.
- The outdoor area to the rear and side of the service were both secure with locked gates.
- Cleaning agents, blind cords, flexes and staff belongings were stored safely out of the reach of children.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the children during the inspection.
- Eight mattresses had safety labels and washable wipeable surfaces or covers present.
- The temperature of the Baby cot room was maintained within the recommended 18 to 22°C at sleep time for children aged over one year old. The temperature was recorded at 20.6°C at 11.03am while one baby slept.
- Staff brought the care room attendance record books while outside of the service, for example when the children were having gross motor play in the community hall.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water less than the recommended 43 °C maximum, soap and paper towels and pedal operated lidded bins for disposal of paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed after bathroom visits, after play and before mealtimes.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs for children under 2 years of age, were facilitated with access to cots for sleep.
- The sleep needs of children over two years of age were met through the provision of low stackable beds.
- Ten-minute sleep checks were completed on the children for colour, breathing, position while children slept.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed.

Outing:

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- Outings and trips to the community hall were managed and carried out according to the service outing policy. Children that required extra support were facilitated by additional staff and head counts were completed before, during and after arrival at the destination.
- A written record was completed for each outing to include the staff and children present, with a list of children's names and parents' details, time of departure and return to the service, equipment available to staff, such as first aid box and mobile phones.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

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

Compliance Information

- (b) The service was observed to be safe and secure.
- (c) the service was kept well lit, heated and ventilated
- (d) The service was observed to be clean, maintained and in good repair, for example all toilets had toilet seats, and all sinks allowed water to flow freely when used to wash hands of the staff and the children.