

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DY273 |
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|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name of Service:</b> | TCD Day Nursery |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of Service:</b> | House 49-50, Trinity College Dublin, College Green. |
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|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | D02 PN40 |
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|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Noel Gorman |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 30/06/2026 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 30 | PM | 29 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

|                                                 |                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Floor 7 Brunel Building,<br>Heuston South Quarter,<br>St John's Road West,<br>Kilmainham,<br>Dublin 8<br>D08 X01F |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | JA.McKimm                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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

TCD Day Nursery is a community run full day care service which currently opens 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a converted building on the grounds of Trinity College campus providing Early Education and Care to the children of staff and students attending the college. The service is comprised of five care rooms, a parent's room, kitchen, staff room and an office. The service caters for 52 children aged 0-6 years.

The setting has two outdoor areas which are located on opposite sides of the service. One outdoor area is partitioned into two sections allowing the children from the baby room to have their own outdoor space.

### Staffing

The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service. The registered provider employs nineteen staff to work in the service including two persons in charge, a deputy person in charge and a cook. Fourteen staff were present on the day of inspection including a person in charge, a deputy person in charge, a cook and eleven staff working directly with children.

### 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

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

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a preschool child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby room and the Wobbler 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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

*(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 service had two designated persons in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
  - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and was later joined by one designated person in charge who remained in the service throughout the inspection.
  - (c) There was a clearly defined management structure in the service. Staff identified the person in charge and deputy person in charge to the inspector.

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- (2) A Garda vetting disclosure for the registered provider was reviewed, and the files of nineteen adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, and the following checks were completed.
- (a) There were thirty-seven written and validated references available from a past employer.
  - (b) There was one written and validated references available from reputable source.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the registered provider and nineteen adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for ten adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to nineteen adults before employment commenced.
- (4) Eighteen adults 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, Disability, and Equality.

### 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) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working with the children throughout the inspection. There were eleven adults caring for thirty children in the morning and ten staff members caring for twenty-nine children in the afternoon on the day of inspection. The management team provided cover where required on the day of inspection.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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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 sample of twelve children's registration records were reviewed as part of the inspection. The registered provider ensured a full record (1) (a-i) was maintained.

### 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*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The following observations are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

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### Basic Needs:

- Children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they showed the inspector their toys and play equipment.
- There was a cosy area in each care room. In the Wobbler Room, children were observed using this space where they were comfortably engaged with a staff member who was reading a story aloud and interacting with the children.
- Children were provided with regular meals and snacks, the food served was reflected in the service menu. On the morning of the inspection children in the care rooms were served a snack of a selection of fruits including pear, banana, oranges and apples and crackers. A hot lunch of mild turkey chilli was served. Alternative options were available for children. An afternoon snack of cheese and ham rolls, along with peppers and sweetcorn was served. Drinks of water and milk were offered at all mealtimes to children.
- Children from all care rooms were observed to access the different outdoor areas during the day. This supports their social, cognitive, and gross and fine motor development.
- Children's language development was supported through conversations, activity times, and storytelling activities which were observed during the inspection and the language used by staff was observed to be kind and supportive. For example, a staff member was observed to speak in a reassuring and friendly manner to children while their dinner was being served.

### Supporting Relationships

- Staff actively engaged with the children throughout the day and joined them in conversation and play. The interactions were calm and pleasant. For example, activity times and mealtimes were observed to be sociable events and staff chatted amicably with the children chatting about the food they were eating and extending vocabulary.
- Children's artwork, photographs, family walls and birthday charts were displayed throughout the playrooms and service, supporting the children's sense of identity and links between home and the service
- Staff discussed how parents are welcomed into the service. The service has a parent's room to support parental engagement. The deputy person in charge informed the inspector how this room is used regularly by a parent who is currently breast feeding her child. In addition, the inspector observed staff to chat with parents at arrival and collection times.

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### Physical and Material Environment.

- The furniture provided in the care room was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- The rooms were well laid out with designated areas of interest to provide for distinct types of play and learning. For example, in the baby room there was a sensory box, building blocks, soft balls, push along toys, easy grip peg wooden puzzles and cause and effect toys, for example, musical battery-operated toys.
- The outdoor back garden used by the older children had ride on vehicles, scooters, cars, balls, a teepee structure and a wooden outdoor playhouse.

### 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 inspector, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured with keypad access to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection.
- The enclosed outdoor play areas were secured reducing the risk of unauthorised access. Children who were brought out to the outdoor play areas from indoors were observed to be supervised.
- Cleaning products were inaccessible to children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children throughout the inspection.

#### Infection Control:

- The sanitary accommodation was equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, and hand drying facilities. Both staff and children were observed to show familiarity with routine handwashing after nappy changing, before mealtimes and outdoor play.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- Children had individual labelled boxes to store nappies and lotions.

#### Safe Sleep:

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- There were a sufficient number of cots and low-level beds to meet the sleep needs of the children within the service.
- Children under two years of aged were provided with a cot for sleeping.
- Sleep checks were completed every 10 minutes by staff members during sleep time of children. Staff recorded each child's position, skin colour and breathing pattern.

### Fire Safety:

- The emergency evacuation exits were observed to be unobstructed throughout the inspection. The children's attendance book was monitored to ensure staff knew how many children were present. This ensured a safe evacuation of the children and staff in the event of an emergency.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. There were two trailing flexes observed to be accessible to the children in the Baby room and Wobbler room. This posed a risk to safety.
2. On the day of inspection an ambient room temperature of between 18°C and 22°C was not maintained in the Wobbler room. Three temperature readings of 24.4°C, 23.4°C and 24.2°C that were taken at various intervals throughout the morning which demonstrated that the room temperature was too warm. This posed a safety risk. It is acknowledged that on the morning of inspection, staff opened windows to allow fresh air to circulate in the room.

#### Infection Control:

3. A sticky residue was present on a radiator cover in the Wobbler room which posed an infection risk.

#### Administration of Medication:

4. The service did not ensure the safe administration of prescribed emergency medication for one child, evidenced by the fact that staff were not aware of the steps to follow in the event of a medical emergency. It is acknowledged a medical care plan for the child was available in the service.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The trailing flexes in the Baby Room and Wobbler Room have been encased in PVC conducts and secured to the wall.

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2. Wall fans have been added to the childcare rooms to reduce temperatures, and the service is assessing the feasibility of installing air conditioning in the childcare rooms.

### Infection Control:

3. The sticky residue on radiator cover in Wobbler room has been removed.

### Administration of Medication:

4. Staff have been trained on 'Managing an Allergic Reaction and Administering an auto adrenalin injector' and a reminder notice has been issued to all staff highlighting that a list of FAR trained staff is posted in every room and that the procedure in the first instance is to refer any medical emergency to one of the FAR trained staff.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Photographic evidence submitted.
2. Evidence submitted.

#### Infection Control:

3. Photographic evidence submitted.

#### Administration of Medication:

4. Evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventative actions as stated by the registered provider address the non-compliances in Regulation 23 and will be reviewed on 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, and*
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

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### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated 23 June 2026.
  - (b) A record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating it was last serviced on 28 June 2025, it is acknowledged that an annual service of firefighting equipment was due to take place on 1 July 2026, and the number type and maintenance of smoke alarms throughout the service, were last serviced on 12 May 2026.
- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the inspector.
- (4) A notice of procedures was displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.