

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY332
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	YMCA Childcare
-------------------------	----------------

Address of Service:	YMCA Childcare, 53 Aungier Street, Dublin 2, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D02 CH96
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Stuart Buchanan
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	--------------------------------

Date of Inspection:	28/04/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	94	PM	82
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

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:	E Hosford and Á Dunne
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).

Description of service

TÚSLA An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teaghlach Child and Family Agency	Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V3.0 30/03/2026 Service ID: TU2015DY332	1 of 12
--	--	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

YMCA Childcare established in 1991, is operated as a social enterprise by YMCA to support services for young people, in Dublin 2. The YMCA is a registered charity. This service provides full day care, part-time and sessional care to pre-school children from 0-6 years. The service is registered to operate from 7.45 am to 6.15pm but currently is operating from 8.00 am to 5.30pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE). The service has 6 care rooms: Room 1 - Part time ECCE room (3 years to 5 years), Room 2 - Preschool room (3 years to 5 years), Room 3 - the Toddler room (2 to 3 years), Room 4 - the Baby room (6 months to 18 months), Room 5 - the Tiny Tot room (1 years to 2 years) and Room 7 - Preschool room (3 to 5 years). The service has one sleep room with eight cots. There is one enclosed outdoor area, a studio and a large sports hall enabling daily access to open space. A school age service is also provided in Room 1 and Room 6 from 2.30pm to 5.30pm. Room 6 was closed on the day of inspection

Staffing

The service employs 40 adults to include the registered provider, the person in charge, assistant manager, a Development Childcare manager, 30 childcare staff, one of whom only works with the school age children, 3 kitchen staff, 1 maintenance manager and 1 general service manager along with 1 part-time staff employed under the Community Employment Scheme were present. Five students are currently completing work placements within the service and 3 were present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work in the service and was not present in the building 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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25 and 29.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19, 23,25 and 29. As a result, the scope of the inspection included Rooms 1, 5 and 7 and did not include Rooms 2,3 and 4.

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.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) The staff files of 11 new employees and 5 students on work placement were reviewed.

(a) The following references were available from a past employer.

- Twenty validated written references were available for staff and students on work placement

(b) The following references were from a source other than a past employer.

- Twelve validated written references were available for staff and students on work placement.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 40 employees and 5 students on work placement. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for 7 new staff members and 4 students who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Ten staff members employed to work directly with the early years children had evidence to confirm they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications

Part III – Management and Staff

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service, for example:

There were 25 adults available to 94 children in attendance when the inspectors arrived unannounced in the morning and in the afternoon 17 adults were available to 82 children.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection, as follows:

- In Room 1, there were 11 children aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years being cared for by 3 adults in the morning.
- In Room 2, there were 19 children aged 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 5 adults in the morning and 4 adults were caring for 16 children in the afternoon.
- In Room 3, there were 18 children aged 2 years to 3 years being cared for by 5 adults in the morning and 4 adults caring for 20 children in the afternoon.
- In Room 4, there were 6 children aged 6 months to 14 months being cared for by 3 adults in the morning and by 2 adults in the afternoon.
- In Room 5, there were 17 children aged 1 years to 2 years being cared for by 5 adults in the morning and by 4 adults in the afternoon.
- In Room 7, there were 23 children aged 3 years to 5 years being cared for by 4 adults in the morning and by 3 adults in the afternoon.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(8)(a) The staff roster available demonstrated that two adults were on the premises during the operation of the service

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)

Basic Needs:

- The service provided all the meals eaten by the children which included a breakfast of cereal, morning snack of fruit smoothie, a hot meal at lunch time, and an afternoon tea of sandwiches. Additional food was available at mealtimes with children given the opportunity to have more if needed.
- Water was available in each care room for the children to drink.
- Mealtimes were held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere in each care room. Staff were observed to support the children during mealtimes.
- Children were provided with appropriate cutlery to support their independence during mealtimes
- The transitions between activities were observed to be calm and organised. Additional staff were available to offer children small group activities or one to one support if required.
- Staff were observed caring for the children in a calm and friendly manner with attention given to their individual needs and preferences.
- The children enjoyed spending time in the outdoor area, studio and hall during the inspection.

Physical and Material Environment:

- Room 1 was a bright and spacious area which enabled the children to move and explore the areas of interest and low-level shelving units independently. The furniture provided for meals and tabletop activities were appropriate for the children attending.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Throughout the room natural, open ended play materials were available to the children such as play kitchens, dolls, dress up, activity areas with cars, trucks, blocks and bricks. These materials promoted the use of all the children's senses and can provoke exploration, curiosity and creativity.

Supporting Relationships:

- Warm and positive interactions were observed between adults and children. The atmosphere in the service was relaxed, and staff and children were observed to be familiar with the routine.
- Relationships with parents were facilitated through conversations at drop-off and collection where the child's day was discussed; detailing information on the child's day such as diet, sleep, nappies, curriculum activities and other relevant information.
- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children attending to enable them to eat their meals and take part in tabletop activities such as painting and drawing.

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and Material Environment

- On review of the physical and material environments of Room 5, Room 7 and the outdoor area it was observed that the equipment and materials available, did not adequately facilitate the children to engage and explore them and to develop their learning opportunities and experiences, for example:
 - In Room 5, the supporting equipment for the play kitchen was not available or accessible to the children to play with.
 - In Room 7 the equipment for play in the home corner was minimal with an assortment of toys and dolls clothes. The dolls house was empty with no supporting equipment available.
 - The dress up area had an assortment of toys, and a dolls buggy was positioned on top of the dress up unit.
 - Dolls were in poor condition with matted hair.
 - No soft mat or cushions were provided on the floor in the rest area for children to sit and relax a take a break from activities.
 - In the outdoor area the playhouses were empty and had no supporting equipment to engage and invite the children to play.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Physical and Material Environment

- In response to the non-compliances the service has stated the following.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- An equipment order was placed and delivered. Environments have been updated and further developed.
- Cushions were also added to the cosy corner in Room 7 and a leather orange sofa was taken out of storage.
- An all-staff training day was held on 5th May, comprising 4.5 hours of professional development on exploring updated practices and principles of providing child led play and learning. Staff also received a 1.5-hour workshop from a practice development agency.
- Staff meeting was held on 28th May where Tusla feedback was discussed. Non compliances were addressed and discussed with the full staff team.
- Management will conduct biweekly checks on rooms and environments ensuring that there are sufficient resources and play activities to meet the needs of the children in each room.
- Play resources will be included in the agenda of the regular staff meetings taking place every 2 months.
- Training needs will be reviewed regularly.
- Quarterly reviews of the equipment will also take place, and resources will be replaced accordingly. Our next review will be on 17th of August in preparation for the new school year.
- Room leaders in each room will report any breakages or wear and tear to equipment so that replacements can be sourced as the need arises.

Supporting documentation submitted

Physical and Material Environment

1. The service submitted the following documentary and photographic evidence to support their corrective and preventive actions.

- Pictures of new equipment bought and equipment that is available daily to the children.
- Receipts for materials
- Team meeting minutes
- Training Day Agenda
- Notes from meeting with Room 5
- Notes from meeting with Room 7

Summary Comment

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 19 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.

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 entrance to the service and care rooms was closely monitored by reception staff who granted access by an electronically operated keypad.
- The premises and outdoor play area was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the service.
- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of reach. Flexes and cables were secured and were inaccessible to the children.
- Toys and equipment were maintained and free from hazards
- 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.

Infection Control:

- The service was observed to be clean and well maintained with cleaning schedules in operation within the care room and sanitary facility. The care room and sanitary facility had active mechanical ventilation to extract any stale air.
- Nappy changing was completed as per service policy and practice and best practice guidelines.
- Adults and children were observed to wash their hands at the required times to reduce the potential risk of cross infection.

Safe Sleep:

- Children in Room 5 and Room 7 were facilitated to sleep in cots, floor mattresses or stackable beds, with each child provided with suitable bed linen for sleep.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- 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 18°C to 22°C for over 1-year olds.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Infection control practices observed in Room 5 and Room 7 were at variance with the service policy and best practice guidelines as the distance between cots and stackable beds was less than the recommended 50 cm to prevent the potential risk of cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. In response to the non-compliances the service has stated the following.
 - Safe Sleep policy was distributed to staff the day after the inspection. All staff have read the policy and signed it. Management completed a follow up to ensure all staff understood what was expected of them when putting children to sleep.
 - Leaders from Rooms 5 and 7 were met with individually after the inspection to go through the feedback and were instructed to feed this back to their staff team ahead of the staff meeting.
 - Staff meeting was held on 28th May where Tusla feedback was discussed. Non compliances were addressed and discussed with the full staff management who will conduct weekly checks to ensure correct distances between cots and beds are maintained.
 - Safe sleep posters detailing the requirements were created and distributed to all rooms.
 - The maintenance team has provided a wooden measure that a staff member in each room uses to ensure correct distance between beds. The room leader will ensure daily checks are carried out either by them or they will delegate the checks to a member of their team.
 - Any new staff members or existing staff transitioning to a room with sleeping children will continue to be trained on the safe sleep policy before starting

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

1. The service submitted the following evidence to reflect their corrective and preventive actions.
 - Safe Sleep Policy

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- Notes from meeting with Room 5
- Notes from meeting with Room 7
- Team Meeting Agenda
- Photos
- Induction policy

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 23 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate.

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) The registered provider ensured that four staff members who held First Aid Responder (FAR) certification training were available to the children during the operation of the service.

(2)(a) and (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and safely stored in easily accessible and conspicuous positions throughout the service.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The outdoor area was observed to be in a state of disrepair as the following was observed.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

- The artificial surface of the area was uneven and in poor condition.
- The integrity of the walls was damaged with flaking plaster present.

The interim measures put in place by the registered provider following the last inspection have not been sustained.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) In response to the non-compliances the service has stated the following.

- Affected areas cordoned off as interim measure until construction works begin.
- A contractor has been booked for works week of 7th September.
- Flaking plaster repaired.

Supporting documentation submitted

(d) The service submitted the following evidence to reflect their corrective and preventive actions.

- Photos
- Email confirmation

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 29 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.