

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY281
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Name of Service:	Treasure Island Creche: 3
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Address of Service:	Treasure Island, Renville West, Oranmore, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 NF8Y
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aideen Cruise
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	26
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel
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

Treasure Island Creche 3 is a private early years care and education facility providing a play-based curriculum. The service is registered to accommodate children aged from 0-6 years of age. However, children currently attending are aged from 12 months to 6 years. It has been in operation since 2009 offering a choice of full-time, part-time and sessional services. Daily opening hours are from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday and the service is open for 51 weeks of the year. This includes children enrolled on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is facilitated over 38 weeks annually from 09:00 to 12:00.

The service is located on the grounds of the Marine Institute in Rinvile, Oranmore, County Galway. It is a purpose-built single storey building with four groups of children located within 3 care rooms- Wobblers and Toddlers each have an individual care room and the Pre-school and Playschool children have clearly defined areas within one large open plan care room. There is a designated sleep room, office, sensory room, staff room and kitchen also on the premises. Children and adult sanitary facilities are available along with a separate nappy changing room. A secure outdoor play area is located adjoining the gable wall of the service.

Staffing

There are 11 adults employed by the service which includes 3 relief staff members. Seven adults were present on the day working directly with the children, these included the registered provider and the area manager.

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

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- Discussion with relevant staff

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.

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, area manager, manager, 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.*

(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,*

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- (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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

Compliance Information

- (1)
 - (a) There was a designated person in charge. A named deputy person was available as required.
 - (b) The staff roster indicated that either the designated person in charge or named person were on the premises while the early years children were on the present.
- (2) Documentation on file, recruitment files and the staff roster, indicated that there were two adults employed since the last inspection on 4 November 2024. Therefore, these two files were reviewed. In addition, garda vetting for two existing adults whose garda vetting required renewal were also reviewed.
 - (a) Three of the four required written and validated references were from past employers.
 - (b) The remaining one of four written and validated references was from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the two adults employed since the last inspection. In addition, two garda vetting disclosures which required renewal for two existing staff members were also on file demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Overseas police vetting was available for one adult, from two separate countries, for whom they were required, who had lived outside the State as an adult for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) Staff files viewed on the day indicated that the two adults employed to work directly with the children had obtained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from at least Level 6 on the National

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Framework of Qualifications.

- (7)
- (a) Documentation was available to evidence that induction had taken place for the two new adults who had commenced employment in the service; part of which included the policies, procedures and statements of the service. Detailed notes were available of individual supervision of existing staff which had taken place on 09/02/2026.

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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in attendance.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were met. There were 28 children in attendance with 7 adults in the morning and 26 children in attendance with 7 adults in the afternoon.
- (8)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that there were two adults on the premises while the early years children were present. The staff roster confirmed two adults were on the premises while the early years children were in the building.

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:*

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- (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.*
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-
- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- A sample of 20 children's pre-school records; 5 from each group of children were reviewed. These were found to contain all the required information under (1) (a)-(i).
- (3) (c) The records referred to in paragraph 1 (a) – (i) above were open to inspection on the premises.

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:
- (a) the name, position, qualifications and experience of the person in charge and of every other employee, unpaid worker and contractor;*
 - (b) details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service is registered to provide services;*
 - (c) details of the adult: child ratios in the service;*
 - (d) the type of care or programme provided in the service;*
 - (e) the facilities available;*
 - (f) the opening hours and fees;*

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(g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;

(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.

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (a) The name, position, qualifications and experience of the two new staff members were available in the staff recruitment files in the office.
- (b) Details of the class of service and the age profile of children for which the service was registered to provide were available on the Tusla Registration Certificate displayed on the notice board in the reception area and Treasure Island Creche 3 Parent Handbook.
- (c) The details of the adult to child ratios were available on page 5 of the Treasure Island Creche 3 Parent Handbook.
- (d) (e) (f) The type of care programme available, facilities, opening hours and fees were detailed on pages 5 and 6 of Treasure Island Creche 3 Parent Handbook.
- (g) The services policies and procedures, required for Regulation 10, were available in the Treasure Island Creche 3 Parent Handbook.
- (h) Attendance records for each child were available and stored on the multimedia application. The recorded entry and exit times of the children were observed to be within the operating hours of the service from 08:00 to 18:00.
- (i) The staff roster was noted to have been completed daily with each adult's hours of work and lunch break recorded.
- (j) Eleven records of administration of medication, from across the four care rooms, from 21/05/2026 to 17/06/2026, were reviewed. These were found to contain all the required information.
- (k) Eleven accident/incident forms, from across the four care rooms, recorded from 04/06/2026 to 17/06/2026 were reviewed. These were found to contain all the particulars required.
- (3) The records referred to above were open to review on the premises.

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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-

(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

Basic needs:

- Children were observed eating healthy, nutritious, food at regular intervals throughout the day, which was supplied by the service and documented on the 4-week menu, in line with the service's healthy eating policy which outlined that healthy meals were cooked freshly on the premises.
- Staff stated breakfast of oat and wheat cereals, toast, water and milk were available for children who arrived from 08.00 to 08:45. Mid-morning snack was served at 10:05 where children in the Wobbler care room were observed eating small bite sized pieces of cheese, tangerines and grapes. The hot lunch of chicken, rice and vegetables was served in the Playschool care room at 12.00 and children who were hungry and requested more food were facilitated. Afternoon snack served at 15:00 consisted of sourdough sandwiches and yogurt. A further snack of crackerbread and humous was available at 16:45 for those children availing of full day care.
- Age and stage appropriate water containers, cutlery and crockery were available for each group of children; two handled cups were observed in use in the Wobbler care room while older children in the Playschool and Pre-school care rooms drank from individual water bottles and a jug of water was available with individual cups.
- Children were escorted to the toilet by adults in the Pre-school and Playschool care rooms who remained nearby to help and provide reminders to the children to wash and dry their hands after toileting.
- Nappy changing was observed to be carried out regularly. Adults from the Toddler, Wobbler and Playschool care rooms stated that nappies were changed at 10:30, 13:30 and 15:30 and as required. These interactions were observed to be handled in a positive and sensitive manner with the staff members from the care rooms using the opportunity for warm and social one-to-one interactions with the children.
- The day of inspection was wet and windy; children playing outdoors were observed to be dressed appropriately with their coats and hats on.

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- The sleep and rest needs of the children attending the service were met; Wobblers and Toddlers were observed asleep from 12:05 in the cots provided in the designated sleep room. Fifteen mats, of more than 6 centimetres depth, were available for older children in the Playschool and Pre-school care rooms who were given the opportunity to rest and relax, if required.
- Rest areas, with appropriate soft furnishings including vinyl sofas and cushions, were available in each of the areas, for the children to sit away from noisy activities.
- A sensory room, with appropriate targeted resources, was available offering a safe and calm environment for children to relax supporting their development and well-being.
- The adults were observed to be kind and sensitive in their attentions to the children. A staff member in the Wobbler care room was observed to offer comfort and support to the children who were visibly anxious of the inspector's presence in the care room.

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 door was secured on arrival and was operated with an electric buzzer and the perimeter of the outdoor play was secured with high stone walls preventing unauthorised adults from being able to enter the premises and preventing the children from leaving the service unsupervised.
- The kitchen and laundry areas were secured with hook and eye devices, which were inaccessible by the children, ensuring that the children could not enter unsafe areas.
- A flex from the speaker in the designated sleep room was stored out of reach of the children.
- Safety catches were in place ensuring children could not access unsafe areas.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children in each area.
- Doors were fitted with finger protectors preventing injury of the children's fingers.

Infection Control:

- Windows were open throughout the premises allowing for the circulation of fresh air.
- All cots were fitted with waterproof sheets ensuring that the cots are kept dry and hygienic while in use.
- Nappy changing was carried out in line with the service's nappy changing procedure and nappies were disposed of in pedal operated, lined and lidded bins available in the changing area.

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- Sinks and wash hand basins were fitted with dispensing soap, dispensing towels and a pedal operated bin to store paper waste.
- Handwashing was observed frequently throughout the day including before and after the eating of food, after toileting and coming in from outdoor play.
- Adults were observed sanitising the tables and sweeping the floors after the serving of food ensuring the areas were kept clean and hygienic.
- Soothers were stored in individual containers and sterilisers were in use in both the Toddler and Wobbler care rooms ensuring they are kept hygienic and germ free.
- Cleaning schedules were available in each care room. These were noted to be completed and up to date ensuring the areas were clean and hygienic.

Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered on the day.
- Temperature reducing medication, stored in its original container with an expiry date of 04/27, was noted to be stored in the kitchen out of reach of the children.

Safe Sleep:

- The temperature of the designated sleep room for children over 12 months was within the recommended temperatures of 18°C to 22°C, facilitating safe sleep.
- The 7 cots in the designated sleep room were placed at least 50 centimetres apart, ensuring the safety of the sleeping children.
- Evidence was furnished to the inspector of the 10-minute physical sleep checks carried out by the staff in the service. These detailed the position, colour, breathing of each child and the staff member's name along with the room temperature documented for each child. In addition, a portable device was in use and carried by the adult carrying out the 10-minute physical sleep checks in which the children in the designated sleep room could be observed and heard during the intervening 10-minute physical sleep checks.
- Ambient lighting was available from windows allowing adults to walk around each cot and to visibly see each child while carrying out the physical sleep checks.

Fire Safety:

- Fire evacuation procedures were visible on the wall of the designated sleep room beside the fire exit door aiding in the safe evacuation of adults and children in the event of an emergency.

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- The fire assembly point was visible in the car park providing a safe area for the children and adults to stand a safe distance from the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- There was a piece of raised linoleum at the exit door to the outdoor play area in the Wobbler care room which was raised off the floor and split down the middle, posing a safety hazard for children exiting from the door.

Infection Control:

- There was no hot water available in the right-hand basin of the children's sanitary area, preventing children from washing their hands effectively. In conversation, the manager stated that the part has been ordered and they were waiting for a plumber to come and fix it.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The following statements were received from the registered provider;

General Safety:

- The raised linoleum has been replaced ensuring that it does not cause a safety hazard to the children.

Infection Control:

- We were awaiting a replacement part from Germany which has now been fitted, there is running hot water in the tap.

Supporting documentation submitted

The following photographic evidence was received in the office of the inspectorate;

General Safety:

- Photographs of a new piece of linoleum fitted flush to the floor.

Infection Control:

- Photographs of the newly installed tap and a photograph showing the temperature of the hot water recorded as 40.9°C, within the recommended temperature of under 43°C.

Summary Comment

The actions taken and evidence submitted by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.