

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE094
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Name of Service:	Little Legends
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Address of Service:	2 Lipstown Manor, Naraghmore, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	R14 CY90
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Name of Registered Provider:	Laura Alcock
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Service type:	Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	18/05/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Suite 7, Floor 2, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co Kildare, W91 E6H2
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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

Little Legends is a sessional service located in Narraghmore, Co Kildare. The service operates a sessional service, Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm for 38 weeks of the year.

There is one care room located to the rear of the registered providers domestic dwelling.

There is an outdoor area to the side and front of the premises.

The service offers a play-based curriculum to the children aged between 2 to 6 years.

Staffing

There were three adults working in the service directly with the children. On the day of inspection the registered provider was not present in the service. All staff held qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing levels

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Immediate Action Notice IAN1764	18/05/2026	One staff member did not have Garda vetting available for inspection. One staff member had not obtained the required international Police vetting.
Status	Action was taken by the registered provider following the service of the notice and the provider submitted a written response with detailed corrective and preventive actions which were accepted by the Inspectorate.	

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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,

(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

(1)

(a)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The deputy person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained present for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The recruitment records of four staff employed in the service were reviewed. They met the regulatory requirements as follows:

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(2)

(a) Four past employer references were available in respect of four adults.

(b) Two references from a reputable source were available in respect of two adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults.

(4)

All adults had a required qualification at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(a)(b)

Two references in respect of two adults were not accepted as they were not from a recognised reputable source.

(2)

(c) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1764 served.

(d) See Statutory Notice section in relation to Immediate Action Notice IAN1764 served.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A recruitment and onboarding checklist will be created to include mandatory Garda Vetting verification step before any staff member can commence work. The Preschool Manager will verify and sign off on all vetting documentation before a start date is confirmed.

A staff file checklist will be completed and verified before employment commences to ensure all required documents, including Police Clearance Certificates where applicable, are obtained and filed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photos submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with the supporting documentation was reviewed and is deemed to meet the requirements of Regulation 9.

This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children throughout the inspection.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were always maintained during the inspection. Three adults facilitated the programme of care and education for 15 pre-school children.

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 registered provider and staff of the service had ensured that each child's learning, development and well-being was being facilitated as observed by the following:

The parents and guardians of the children provided all snacks for the children which included a variety of foods including sandwiches, fruit and yoghurts.

Care practices observed on the day of inspection were appropriate and suitable to the age and the needs of the children in attendance. The atmosphere in the care room was calm, friendly and supportive. The staff demonstrated warmth and sensitivity in their interactions with the children by using soft vocal tones, listening attentively and offering praise and encouragement.

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The children were encouraged to develop independent life skills such as using the toilet, washing their hands, wiping their own noses, and taking care of their belongings. Staff displayed a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Interactions observed throughout the inspection between staff and children were warm with staff observed supporting children in their play. Staff made themselves available to the children to scaffold and extend learning as well as be available should a child require assistance.

The care room was bright, spacious and contained a varied provisions for play and learning. There were materials and equipment suitable for the age range and number of children attending the service. There were low level shelving units so that the children could easily access the materials and there were sufficient child sized tables and chairs for the number of children attending. The shelving contained activities including a variety of table top activities, puzzles, art and construction activities which promoted choice and independence. The care room had defined areas of interest including a home corner, and a rest area with books.

There was an outdoor area to the side and front of the service which contained sand play, large construction toys and ride on toys. The children were observed to play outdoors on the day of inspection which gave them further opportunities for active and sociable play.

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

Appropriate measures had been taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the children and staff in attendance as demonstrated below:

General Safety:

Access to the service was secure ensuring no unauthorised access to or from the building. Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children. Heavy furniture was secured and cables were out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

Thermostatically controlled warm water was available to the children along with liquid soap and paper towels. Pedal bins were available throughout the service. The service was maintained in a clean condition. Children were observed to wash their hands prior to snack time and after using the toilet.

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Administration of Medication:

There was no child present who required the administration of emergency medication. Staff stated they don't administer medication.

Fire Safety:

All emergency exits were kept clear of obstruction and regular monthly fire drills took place.

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

Compliance Information

- (1)
There was evidence to show that an adult held certification in First Aid Responder training, one adult was available with this training for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)
(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available and stored safely in an easily accessible and prominent position in a press in the care room.

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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.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill took place on 12th January 2026.
- (b)
- The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records confirmed the most recent service for both the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms were carried out during September 2025.