

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS019
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Name of Service:	Lily's Childcare
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Address of Service:	The Heritage Centre, Main Street, Saggart, Saggart, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 DX43
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Name of Registered Provider:	Eoin Doyle
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	09/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien
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

Lily's Childcare service is located in the Heritage Centre in Saggart, Co Dublin which is a dedicated building adapted to provide a pre-school service. A sessional service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years. The service is open on Monday to Friday between 9:00 to 12:00 pm for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

There were three adults working in the service directly with the children on the day of inspection. The person in charge arrived at the service following the inspector's arrival. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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

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

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1)(3) - Staffing levels

Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(k) - Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 (1)(b) - Health, welfare and development of child

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Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1) - Record in relation to pre-school service.

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.

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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, 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 manager is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.
 - (b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service throughout the inspection.

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(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were three new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 17 October 2024. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

Documentation was reviewed in respect of three adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the six validated, written references that were required, six were available from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for four staff members demonstrating that the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for two staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(3)

The records outlined in regulation 9(2) above were dated prior to the commencement date of employment of the adults in the service.

(4)

Records were available demonstrating that all seven adults employed since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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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 children at all times during the inspection.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were eight children attending the service and they were supervised by three adults.

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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;*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Children's attendance was recorded in a hardcopy book with the arrival and departure times of each child recorded daily.
 - (i) Staff members daily hours of work were recorded in a hardcopy book and a staff roster, and this reflected the staff members working in the service on the day of inspection.
 - (j) Two records of administration of medication to a child were reviewed and had been completed as required by the regulation
 - (k) Five accident and incident records were reviewed and had been completed as required by the regulation.

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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-

(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)

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly on the day of inspection. Staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play and meals and also in putting on and taking off their coats. The adults supported the children to manage their personal care. The children used the toilet independently. Children observed in play in the outdoor area wore coats appropriate to the weather.

Healthy eating was promoted in the service and staff reported that all snacks of crackers and fruit are provided by the service daily for children and parents/guardians have an option to send additional snacks for their child. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff supported children who needed assistance. Children appeared happy and content within the care room. Water was available for drinking in the care room and children's water bottles were also brought outside for children when playing in the outdoor area.

Children were supported in transitions between activities within the care room and in transitions to the outdoor play area. Children were familiar with these transitions and engaged in these smoothly.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly, offering comfort and support when needed. Staff interacted warmly with the children throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play and in a craft activity where children were encouraged to create their own octopus. Staff encouraged and praised the children when promoting positive behaviour. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's choice and independence during play.

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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 entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children in the indoor and outdoor areas on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor and outdoor play environments were safe and free from hazards.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.
- Storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate handwashing for staff and children in the sanitary area adjacent to the care room.
- Foot pedal bins were available throughout the service for the safe disposal of used hand towels and other waste products.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned before and after snack time.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had an administration of medication policy in place. An adequate medication record was available to document medication given should this be required in an emergency. All staff were familiar with the procedures outlined in the medication policy. Anti-febrile medication was available, in date and stored out of the reach of children.

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, all emergency exits were observed to be clearly identifiable and were not obstructed.

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Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. On their return indoors from playing in the outdoor play space, children were not supervised in handwashing, and the adults were not observed to wash their hands. The children were observed to access resources from the shelves to play with in addition to three children handling snacks from their bags. This poses a risk to staff and children in cross contamination and cross infection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

To correct the non-compliance, the manager carried out an immediate staff briefing: All staff members were formally briefed immediately following the inspection on the findings regarding post-outdoor hand hygiene. A strict routine has been implemented where an adult directly supervises all children during handwashing immediately upon returning indoors from the outdoor play area, ensuring they use the provided liquid soap and paper towels correctly.

To prevent reoccurrence in the future, all staff members have been instructed to model proper hand hygiene by washing their own hands immediately upon returning indoors and before assisting children with snacks or distributing play resources.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary evidence of an email confirming staff briefing in relation to handwashing.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

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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)

A person trained in first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available and safely stored on the premises.

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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.*
- ((4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) There was evidence of regular fire drills having taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on 05 June 2026.
 - (b) There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated April 2026 respectively.
- (4)
- There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within the care rooms and the main hallway of the building.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance which expires on 27 March 2027 which covers a maximum of 22 children