

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021DY005
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Name of Service:	Safari Childcare
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Address of Service:	The Sterling Building, Clancy Quay, Islandbridge, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D08 A2TN
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Name of Registered Provider:	Cian Powell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date 1 of Inspection:	23/03/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	24/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	81	PM	72
Day 2	AM	78	PM	Not applicable

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Nexus Building Block, 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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Safari Childcare based in Clancy Quay south Dublin city is one of nine services operated by the registered provider. The service offers a sessional service to children availing of the Early Education and Childhood Care (ECCE) scheme from 8:45am to 11:45am Monday to Friday, and full day care service for children aged between 6 months to 5 years from 8am to 6pm. The service also provides care to school age children from 1:30-6.00pm during school term.

The service operates from a three-storey premises and has eight care rooms and two separate sleep rooms for use by the children under the age of two years. On the ground floor are the Wobbler room 1 with adjoining cot room, Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 rooms. On the middle floor are the Wobbler 2, a cot room and Preschool 3 room, and on the top floor are Preschool 1, Preschool 2, and the ECCE/School Age Care room. There are sanitary facilities on all floors and the kitchen, and staff room are in the basement. An enclosed outdoor area is also on site on the ground floor.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service and employs 26 staff, of these there was a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge who work in the care rooms as required. One staff member is responsible for the preparation of meals and snacks on site for the children and 23 staff who work directly with the children, one of whom is currently on statutory leave. Two students on work placement were also present in the service. The service also employs a contractor who provides physical education classes to the 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

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- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

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 9,11,16, 19, 23 and 26. 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.

Additional Information

- An Immediate Action Notice (IAN) was issued to the service on the 24 March 2026 in relation to Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment. On the 24 March 2026 the registered provider responded adequately to the IAN with the measures implemented within the service. Please see details in the body of the inspection report.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, deputy 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

(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

(2) The staff files of 12 new employees since the previous inspection and 2 students who were present during the inspection were reviewed.

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

- Twenty-three 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.

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

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for 26 employees, 1 contractor employed in the service, but who was not present on the days of inspection, and 2 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.

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(d) International police vetting was available for 12 new staff members and 2 students who had lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Eleven staff members employed to work directly with the 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.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure had not been obtained for one staff member employed in the service and working directly with the children. An Immediate Action Notice (IAN) was issued to the service on the 24 March 2026 in relation to Regulation 9- Management and Recruitment.

(3) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures outlined in paragraph (2) had not been completed for one staff member prior to starting in the service and allowed access to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(c) In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that a Garda vetting disclosure has now been obtained and verified for the staff member concerned, review of the recruitment and onboarding procedures have been carried out to ensure that no staff member may commence work with children without confirmed Garda vetting clearance in place. Management has also implemented an updated compliance checklist and monitoring system to ensure ongoing adherence to Regulation 9 requirements.

(3) Garda vetting disclosure has now been obtained and verified for the staff member concerned. The staff member did not work directly with children until the Garda vetting process was completed.

Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(c) Garda vetting for one staff member.

(3) Corrective action.

Summary Comment

The actions and evidence submitted by the registered provider regarding Regulation 9 were reviewed and accepted by the inspectorate

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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.

(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) During the first day of inspection there were 20 adults working with 81 children in the morning and 18 adults working with 72 children in the afternoon. On the second day of inspection there were 19 adults working with 78 children in the morning.

(2) It was observed that the correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the two days of inspection as the table below demonstrates.

Room and age profile of children	Day 1		Day 2
	Staff: Children		Staff: Children
	Morning	Afternoon	Morning
Wobbler 1 (1-2 years)	Six children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Six children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Seven children were being cared for by 3 adults.
Wobbler 2 (18 months-2 years)	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Nine children were being cared for by 2 adults.
Toddler 1 (2-3 years)	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.

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Toddler 2 (2-3 years)	Ten children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Ten children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Nine children were being cared for by 2 adults.
Preschool 1 (4-5 years)	Fourteen children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Twelve children were being cared for by 3 adults.	Thirteen children were being cared for by 3 adults.
Pre School 2 (3-4 years)	Twelve children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Twelve children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.
Pre School 3 (3-4 years)	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.	Eleven children were being cared for by 2 adults.
ECCE/SAC (3-4 years)	Six children were being cared for by 3 adults.	School age care in the afternoon,	Six children were being cared for by 3 adults
Total	20:81	18:72	19:78

**** Calculated as per Schedule 6 Adult: Child Ratios Part 1.**

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

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;

Compliance Information

(1)

(h) Staff maintained a written record of the time of arrival and departure of all children attending the service.

(i) The staff roster available and provided to the inspectors was reflective of the staff members, and 2 students present in the service during the two days of inspection.

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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

Regulation 19 (1)(a) was assessed in all the care rooms in the service, and the compliances below relate to the Wobbler 2, Toddler 1 and 2 rooms, Preschool 1,2 and 3 and the ECCE room.

Basic Needs:

- The service provided all the meals eaten by the children which included a breakfast of cereal, morning snack of sliced fruits, a hot meal at lunch time, and an afternoon tea of garlic bread and salsa. Additional food was available at mealtimes with children given the opportunity to have more if needed.
- All children in the service were observed to access outdoor play on the day of the inspection.
- 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. Suitable outdoor clothing was provided for each child when going outside and assistance was given to the children when required.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The care rooms were bright and spacious 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.
- Throughout the rooms 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.
- The outdoor play environment was observed to be resourced with a selection of ride on bikes, scooters, slides and climbing frames. These promoted the development of skills such as balance, running, jumping, stopping, and facilitated risk play under the supervision of staff

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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.
- Planned activities in the care rooms inspected were observed to be child led which promoted each child's independence and preference to undertake activities at their pace and interest
- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate for children attending and the toys, equipment and play materials were easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units, nurturing independent decision making.
- Each care room had an area available which allowed a child to take a break from activities and rest to include, mats, cushions and soft toys.
- The outdoor play environment was observed to be resourced with a selection of ride on bikes, scooters, slides and climbing frames. These promoted the development of skills such as balance, running, jumping, stopping, and facilitated risk play under the supervision of staff.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Basic Needs:

1. On the first day of the inspection, the basic needs of children in the Wobbler 1 room were not facilitated by staff as the following practices were observed.
 - A hot meal of vegetable curry and rice arrived for the children at 11.00am. The children were not seated and ready to eat until 11:30am and as a result their meal was cold.
 - The transition from nappy changing to mealtime was not smooth with children getting upset while waiting for their hot meal.
 - The children who were not assisted by staff to eat their meal, ate a minimal amount of food.
 - A child that had wet trousers following outdoor play in the morning was not changed into dry clothes to provide comfort during lunch or for sleep time.

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Supporting Relationships:

2. Birthday and family wall displays along with activities and artwork completed by the children were not displayed at the children's eye level in the Wobbler 1 room. This did not promote the relationships between family and home and give the children a sense of belonging and ownership of their care room.

Physical and Material Environment:

3. The equipment and materials in the Wobbler 1 room were not organised and inviting spaces for the children to engage and explore to develop their learning opportunities and experiences. For example. Boxes of equipment had an assortment of toys and dolls; the play kitchen was empty and not supplied with suitable toys and props.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(a)

Basic Needs

1. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated the following.
 - Room routines were reviewed and reorganised to ensure children are seated and ready before hot meals arrive in the room.
 - The transition from nappy changing to mealtime was revised to minimise waiting times and reduce distress for children. Additional staff support is now provided during busy transition periods to ensure children are comforted and engaged while waiting. Procedures relating to children's personal care were reinforced with all staff. Children are now changed promptly into dry clothing following outdoor play or any accidents to ensure their comfort and wellbeing during meals and sleep time
 - A more experienced senior staff member has been assigned to the Wobbler 1 room to provide additional support, guidance, and oversight of daily routines and care practices. This change is reflected in the staff rosters.
 - A new staff member who had been working in the room has been temporarily reassigned to another room to gain further training, support, and experience before returning to the Wobbler 1 room.
 - Staff have been reminded of their responsibility to actively support and supervise children during mealtimes, particularly younger children who require encouragement and assistance to eat adequately. Mealtime practices are now monitored by room leaders and management.
 - Ongoing supervision, mentoring, and regular spot checks have been introduced to ensure consistent compliance with the service's policies and the care needs of all children.

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- Staff now coordinate transitions more effectively so that meals are served promptly and at an appropriate temperature.
- Room leaders and management now carry out regular observations, spot checks, and supervision of practice to monitor compliance with policies, identify any issues early, and ensure consistent standards of care are maintained.
- Daily room routines and staffing deployment will continue to be reviewed to ensure the needs of the children are being met effectively at all times.

Supporting Relationships

2. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated the following.

- Birthday and family album was created to further support children's sense of belonging and connection between home and the setting.
- Children's artwork and completed activities are now displayed at a low height to promote visibility, engagement, and ownership.
- Staff have been instructed to ensure all displays are child-centred, accessible, and regularly updated.
- The room layout and display areas have been adjusted to better reflect and promote relationships with families
- A room checklist has been introduced to ensure all wall displays (including birthday and family displays and children's artwork) are maintained at appropriate height.
- The birthday and family album has been implemented as a permanent resource and will be regularly updated to maintain strong links between home and the setting.
- Management carries out spot checks to ensure displays remain child-centred and accessible.
- Responsibilities for updating and maintaining displays have been clearly assigned to staff to ensure consistency

Physical and Material Environment

3. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated the following.

- Regular tidy-up routines have been introduced to ensure the environment remains organised, stimulating, and supportive of children's learning.
- Management has reviewed the room setup to ensure it now meets expected standards for a rich and engaging learning environment.

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- Wobbler 1 room has been reorganised to create more inviting, structured, and accessible learning areas for children.
- Equipment has been sorted and stored appropriately, with similar items grouped together to reduce clutter and improve accessibility.
- The play kitchen has been restocked with suitable toys, props, and loose parts to support imaginative and role play experiences.
- Mixed boxes of toys have been reviewed, sorted, and labelled to ensure resources are easy for children to access and use independently

Supporting documentation submitted

1,2 and 3.

Documentary and photographic evidence to support actions.

Summary Comment

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 staff who granted access by an electronically operated gate.
- 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 well maintained and free from hazards
- Staff in the care rooms completed a daily outdoor risk assessment prior to using the area on the first day of inspection.

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- 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.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were facilitated to sleep in cots, contour beds or stackable beds in the sleep room or care room, with each child provided with suitable bed linen for sleep.
- 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 16-20°C for under 1 years and 18°C to 22°C for over 1-year olds.
- Two children in the Wobbler 2 room under two years of age slept on contour beds. Documentation was available to demonstrate that a full sleep plan review had been completed by staff and that parents had been fully included in this decision.

Fire Safety:

- Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were completed in the service and all fire equipment to include fire extinguishers and smoke detectors were serviced yearly.
- The designated fire exits were illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection

Outing:

- No outings took place during the two days of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- A child in the Wobbler 1 was observed accessing nappy creams while waiting to have their nappy changed on two occasions. This increased the potential risk of harm to a child.

Infection Control:

- Infection control practices observed in the Wobbler 1 room were at variance with the service policy and best practice guidelines. For example.
 - Liquid soap was not available for use in the nappy changing room for handwashing after nappy changing and the liquid soap that was available in the care room was not used by the staff to adequately complete handwashing for the children before and after lunch time.

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- Children were observed accessing other children's drinking cups during the lunchtime and during the transition from lunch time to sleep time. This increased the potential risk of cross infection.
- Nappy changing was not completed as per service policy and practice for example gloves and apron were not removed in a timely manner and the hands of the child were not washed after their nappy was changed.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. In response to the non-compliance the registered provider has stated that creams and all other toiletry products have been relocated to a secure, out-of-reach storage area to prevent child access. Staff were immediately reminded of the importance of maintaining constant supervision of children during nappy-changing routines, particularly while waiting. Nappy-changing procedure was reviewed with all relevant staff to reinforce safe practice, including ensuring children are either fully supervised or safely engaged away from hazardous materials at all times.

Infection Control:

2. In response to the non-compliances the registered provider has stated the following.
- Liquid soap has been restocked and made readily available in the nappy changing area.
 - Staff have been reminded and re-trained on the correct handwashing procedure, including mandatory use of liquid soap after every nappy change and before/after meals.
 - All children's drinking cups have been clearly labelled and individually assigned.
 - Staff have been reminded that gloves and aprons must be removed immediately after each nappy change and disposed of appropriately before any further contact with children or surfaces.
 - All staff in the Wobbler 1 room have been re-briefed on the full step-by-step nappy changing procedure. Visual prompts (handwashing posters) have been displayed at handwashing points to reinforce correct practice.
 - All necessary PPE (gloves and aprons), soap, and handwashing materials are now routinely checked as part of daily room safety checks.
 - Clear labelling and organisation of children's personal items (e.g., cups) has been reinforced to prevent cross-use.

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- A team meeting was held to review expectations and clarify correct procedures on infection control in line with best practice guidance staff in the Wobbler 1 room have been re-briefed on the full step-by-step nappy changing procedure.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Documentary evidence.

Infection Control:

2. Documentary and photographic evidence.

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 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 27/02/26
- (b) A record was available of the number, type, and maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was last serviced in March 2026 and for the number, type and maintenance of the mains powered smoke alarms in the premises, which were last serviced in January 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was conspicuously displayed on the premises, hallways and care rooms.