

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS138
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Name of Service:	Giraffe Childcare Griffeen
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Address of Service:	Griffeen Avenue, Lucan, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	K78 P5P7
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Name of Registered Provider:	Dearbhala Cox Giffin
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date 1 of Inspection:	18/08/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	19/08/2026
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No of pre-school children day 1:	AM	50	PM	50
Day 2	AM	50	PM	51

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
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Inspection undertaken by:	S. Quigley, J. Mayock, & D. Stapleton
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Giraffe Childcare Griffeen is a large full day care service located in an urban, residential area of Lucan, South County Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between 0 and 6 years and the service currently operates from Monday to Friday between 07:00am - 18:30pm.

The service is located on the ground floor of a purpose-built premises which is adjacent to a shopping centre and a local primary school. Care is provided across seven rooms, and one dedicated sleep room is available. A large outdoor play area is available to the children to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 22 adults including a centre manager, a cook, and a cleaner. On the first and second day of inspection there were 15 adults working directly with the children who were supported by the centre manager on both days. The area manager arrived during the morning of the first day of inspection and was present for both days.

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

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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, area manager, staff and children who were present on both days of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN	19/08/2026	International police vetting which had a certified translation was not available for one staff member present on inspection from an EU member state who had been Garda vetted after the implementation of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS).
Status	Action was taken by the area manager following service of the notice. The service submitted a written response which detailed corrective and preventive actions undertaken which were accepted by the inspectorate.	

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*

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the person in charge it was confirmed that 19 adults commenced working in the service since regulation 9 was last inspected on the 3 March 2025. The following records were available for the nineteen adults:

- (a) (b) There were 2 references each available for the 19 adults which had been appropriately verified.

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- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the 19 adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed.
- (d) Seventeen of the new employees required International Police vetting, the required documentation was available for sixteen of the adults.
- (4) The 19 adults held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework, or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d)

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice 0145 served.

(3) The procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2)(d) had not been carried out prior to one of the adults commencing employment, as detailed in the Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice 0145 served.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The police vetting was translated placed on the staff member's file. A written response along with the police vetting translation was also emailed to the inspector on the 19/08/2026. To address the identified risk and ensure that this does not re-occur, the service will strengthen the staff file checking and ensure all required documentation, including any required translations of police vetting or other supporting documents, is present before the file is considered complete.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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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.

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 50 children attending the service being supervised by 14 adults on the first day of inspection. There were 51 children attending the service being supervised by 14 adults on the second day of inspection.

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)

Staff members reported that regular meals and snacks are provided by the service each day and are prepared onsite by a cook, including a hot dinner. Mealtimes were observed to be sociable and relaxed during the inspection. Staff were observed sitting with the children chatting, encouraging self-feeding and providing assistance where required. Younger children wore bibs to protect their clothing and staff assisted in cleaning their hands and faces following meals. Drinking water was available to the children in each of the care rooms on the day of inspection.

Staff members were observed interacting with the children in a warm and caring manner throughout the inspection. Staff responded promptly to younger children's cues for care and displayed an awareness of the

individual needs of the children they cared for. Older children were supported to be independent in their environment including using the toilet independently, cleaning up following mealtimes and play, and washing hands before meals and faces afterwards. Adults used gentle tones and respectful language during interactions with the children who all appeared content and happy in their environment during the inspection. Babies were placed to sleep in line with individual care needs and older children were provided with an opportunity to sleep at a designated time after lunch. Staff members stated sleep could be accommodated outside this time if required. Rest areas were available in the care rooms for children to rest or take a break from activities if required. The care rooms were well resourced with a variety of play materials and equipment which were accessible to the children at all times during the inspection, promoting child led play. Interest areas were defined in the rooms including home corners, library's, sensory play spaces, and construction areas which enabled children to engage in various forms of play and learning. Displays of children's artwork, birthday walls, and photographs of children and their families were displayed on the walls, promoting a sense of identity and belonging in the play environments. Each care room was equipped with suitable low-level tables and chairs in line with the developmental needs of the children in each room. The children had access to a large outdoor play area to the rear and side of the premises. All children were provided with the opportunity for outdoor play during the inspection.

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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff, and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised.

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Infection Control:

Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Staff were observed to have good hand hygiene and supported children to wash hands at appropriate times. Cleaning schedules were in place, and the care rooms and sanitary areas were observed to be clean. Staff followed infection control procedures to prevent cross contamination during nappy changing, in line with the service policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspectors and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. A care plan was in place for a child who required emergency medication, and staff were familiar with this plan.

Safe Sleep:

Staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidance during discussions with the inspectors. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and the younger care rooms, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The water temperature in the Namibia sanitary area where children washed hands was recorded to be between 50.9°Celsius posing a risk of injury to a child.
2. Unsecured electrical cables were in reach of children posing a risk of injury to a child as follows:
 - A trailing cable from a stereo in an electrical socket were in reach of a child sleeping in an adjacent cot in the designated sleep room on the day of inspection.
 - A trailing cable from a radio was hanging from a shelf to a low level socket in the Cameroon room in reach of the children.

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Infection Control:

3. The pedal operated bin in use for the disposal of nappies in the Safari room was broken meaning the lid had to be handled to dispose of waste posing a risk of cross contamination.
4. Some soothers were observed to be stored loosely in plastic boxes in the Safari room alongside used bed linen posing a risk of cross contamination.

Safe Sleep:

5. The room temperatures at sleep time in the Safari and Cameroon rooms we recorded to be up to 23°Celsius during sleep time exceeding the required temperature of 18 - 20°Celsius for the age of the children present.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The water temperature in the Namibia room was serviced on the 21st August and the temperature was rectified.
2. The shelf and cables in the cot room and radio wire in the Cameroon room have been removed.

Infection Control:

3. The pedal bin was replaced in the Safari room.
4. All children who have soothers are stored in the soother tubs in their individual plastic boxes the Safari room.

Safe Sleep:

5. At the time of the inspection at sleep time, the windows in both Safari and Cameroon were kept closed due to a wasp nest located directly adjacent to the rooms, as opening them presented a safety risk. The wasp nest has since been removed allowing the two rooms to be appropriately ventilated. The rooms are checked daily and monitored during sleep and have been maintained within the required 18-20C.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

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Summary Comment

The actions outlined as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance identified. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

On both days of inspection, children were observed to be adequately supervised by staff members present at all times, including whilst in the indoor and outdoor play environments and when using sanitary accommodation.