

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS164
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Name of Service:	Mary's House Tallaght
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Address of Service:	8 Old Bawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D24 NT25
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anthony McLeod
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	24/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	20
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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

Mary's House Tallaght operates from a purposely adapted single storey house, located in Tallaght, Dublin 24. It comprises five childcare rooms and an outdoor area. The service is open from 7:45am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. It is registered to provide care for children aged between 0 and 6 years but is currently accommodating children aged between 2 and 6 years.

Staffing

The registered provider employs 10 staff members to work in the service including the person in charge and ancillary staff. Eight staff members are employed to work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, six adults were working directly with the children and the person in charge was available to provide relief when required. The registered provider does not work in the service but did arrive to the service for the closing meeting.

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)(2)(8) - Staffing levels

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

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

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1) - Record in relation to pre-school service across each of the five care rooms of Jack & Jills, Snowdrops, Explorers, Tinkerbells and Busy Bees.

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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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.

(2)

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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 09 May 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) Of the six validated, written references that were required, three were available from a past employer.
- (b) Of the six validated, written references that were required, one was available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for ten staff members, demonstrating that the registered provider has 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 one staff member who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(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

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and validated references were not available for one staff member who commenced employment in the service on 30 June 2025.

(3)

Photographic identification was not available on file for one staff member who commenced employment in the service on 30 June 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

To correct the non-compliance, the staff member whose identification and references were unavailable on the day of the inspection is currently on certified sick leave, and an expected return date has not yet been confirmed. Upon her return, management will ensure that all required documentation, including identification and references, is obtained, verified, and placed on file without delay.

To prevent re-occurrence of this non-compliance in the future, management has developed a comprehensive checklist outlining all documentation required for new employees before commencing employment. This checklist includes all relevant recruitment and personnel records, ensuring that required documentation is obtained, verified, and placed on file in a timely manner. The checklist will be used for all future recruitment to support

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compliance and ensure personnel files are complete. We made up a list of relevant documentation that is needed for new staff starting.

Supporting documentation submitted

The registered provider has submitted a copy of the personnel file checklist to be used for future recruitment.

Summary Comment

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

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 during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 28 children attending the service being supervised by 6 adults on the morning on inspection and 20 children attending the service being supervised by 5 adults on the afternoon of inspection.

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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 notebook on the day of inspection. These records included details of each child's arrival and departure times from the service.
- (i) A record of the staff roster was available and was reflective of the staff present on the day.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(j)
- A sample of 14 administration of medication records were reviewed in a hardcopy folder and were non-compliant on the day of inspection as 8 of these records had not been signed by the child's parent.
- (k)
- A sample of three records of accidents and incidents were reviewed in a hardcopy notebook and were found to be non-compliant as follows:
- One record had not been shared with the child's parent and had not been signed by staff or management from the service.
 - One record had not been signed by the child's parent.
 - Two of these records did not include the child's surname.
 - Two of these records did not include the child's date of birth.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

To correct non-compliances identified on inspection, all medication consent forms have been reviewed and confirmed as complete. They have been signed by the parent/guardian, and any previously missing information has now been completed.

In the future, a designated tray has been placed in the office for staff to submit completed documentation, including medication forms and accident/incident reports. All completed paperwork is reviewed by management promptly to ensure accuracy, completeness, and compliance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentary evidence of completed administration of medication records and accident and incident records.

Photographic evidence of tray to be used to store paperwork for management review, approval and filing.

Summary Comment

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

(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

The manager ensured that there were appropriate and suitable care practices in place within the pre-school.

Children were given the opportunity for free play in the outdoors during the morning and afternoon of inspection, and children's participation was encouraged in all activities throughout the day. The adults participated in music and dance games with the children and were observed to follow the children's needs and interests throughout the morning in water play activities and bubbles.

Given the nature of the weather, staff were observed to place sunscreen on the children regularly with the children wearing hats, having access to drinking water and sheltered areas in the outdoor space.

The transitions between activities were smooth and unhurried, supported by the language used by the adults to the children. Positive reinforcement of children's behaviour contributed to a pleasant environment for the

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children in the service. One to one attention was given to a child when required, in addition, support was given to children so that they remained included in activities.

Children's faces were cleaned after dinner and noses cleaned as required. When staff observed children requiring rest, this was offered to them within the care room for as long as they needed.

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 into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards.
- Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in adjoining sanitary accommodation for all care rooms.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children.
- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared clean

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications.

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- Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Safe Sleep:

- The sleep needs of the younger children in the age group 2 to 3 years were child led but there was also a designated time for sleep after morning snack and before dinner. The children slept in their care rooms and the service had an adequate number of low-level beds to accommodate the children who needed sleep. Each care room had a cosy area for children to use who did not sleep during their day. Sleeping children's breathing, colour and position, were recorded and charted at 10-minute intervals on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

- The nappy changing practices were inadequate on the day of inspection to prevent the spread of infection and cross contamination as evidenced by the following:
 - Two staff members were observed during nappy changes to redress the child wearing the same soiled glove from the nappy change.
 - One staff member was observed to lift the lid of the pedal bin to dispose of paper towel after handwashing.
 - Two staff members did not clean and sanitise the nappy changing unit after the nappy change and before returning to the care room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

All staff have successfully completed the Canavan and Byrne Nappy Changing Procedure training as part of our corrective action plan, ensuring consistent practice and compliance with current policies and procedures. Management will carry out regular observations of staff while they are undertaking nappy changing procedures to ensure they are following the procedure correctly. Any issues identified will be addressed promptly through

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supervision, guidance, and, where necessary, additional training. Ongoing monitoring will support continued compliance with the service's policies and best practice.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Documentary evidence of staff certification in relation to nappy changing.

Copy of the services revised nappy changing procedure.

Summary Comment

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

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 May 2026.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated September 2025 and May 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 service