

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY108
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Name of Service:	Larkin Childcare Facility
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Address of Service:	57/58 North Strand Road, Dublin 3, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D03 XT26
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Name of Registered Provider:	Maria Tyrrell
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	13/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	E Hosford
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

Larkin Childcare Facility is a community service which provides a full-time service to children aged from 1 to 3 years of age and operates from 8:30am to 2:30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from the ground floor of a converted three storey residential premises that offers a range of services to the local community on the north side of Dublin city. There are two care rooms, namely, the Front room and the Back room, along with a sensory room, service kitchen for the preparation of snacks and meals, an administration office and an outdoor area to the rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider is not involved in the daily running of the service and employs a designated person in charge, a deputy person in charge, a housekeeper, four childcare staff and one staff member who was employed under the community employment scheme.

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, premises and facilities under regulations 9,11,16,19,23 and 28. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16.

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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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the designated person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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.*

(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.

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Compliance Information

(2) The staff files of one new staff member and the staff member employed under the community employment scheme employed in the service since the last inspection were reviewed.

(a) Two validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Two validated written references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, designated person in charge, a deputy person in charge, a housekeeper, four childcare staff and one staff member who was employed under the community employment scheme staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required as documentary evidence demonstrated that neither staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) On review of documentation available the new staff member had evidence to demonstrate that they 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.

(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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were five adults working with eight children in the morning and five children in the afternoon of the inspection.

(2) The adult to child ratios were maintained on the day of inspection as outlined below.

- **Front room-** 2 adults were caring for 3 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and 2 children in the afternoon.
- **Back room-** 3 adults were caring for 5 children aged 2-3 years in the morning and three children in the afternoon.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that two adults were present on the premises at all times.

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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) The arrival and departure of children in the two care rooms were maintained in a roll book in the service.
 - (i) Weekly staff rosters were available to demonstrate the details of staff present in the service daily.
 - (j) A system was in place if a child attending the service required medication.
 - (k) On review of one accident and incident record the required information was recorded in line with the service policy on accidents and incidents.

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.*

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Compliance Information

(1)(b)

- Staff were observed working well together in providing care, assistance and support to the children as required. The staff members were familiar with the children and their individual personalities, preferences and abilities and responded to their needs in a timely manner.
- The care rooms were bright and inviting space with children's artwork, pictures of extended family and birthdays on display.
- The children appeared confident and comfortable in their environment and accessed play materials and their water bottles independently.
- Lunch time was a sociable and relaxed experience for the children with staff sitting with them and engaging in conversation and discussion. Children were given time to enjoy their food and take their time eating and drinking.
- A daily picture schedule was available for the children to familiarise themselves with the routine of the service. Strategies such as indicating what will happen next, planning and familiarity with routines enabled organised and timely transitions.
- Staff were consistent in their approach with the children and each child enjoyed time in the outdoor area during the inspection.
- Sleep time was a relaxed and calm experience for the children with consideration given to each child and their individual needs for comfort and rest.

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 was closely monitored by staff who granted access by a locked door and latch.
- 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.

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- The care rooms were observed to be suitable and safe with all cleaning agents and sharp implements out of reach.
- Low level windows in the care rooms were secured.
- 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 the children in attendance.

Infection Control:

- Adequate hand-washing facilities were available in the sanitary facilities used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and a pedal operated bin. Children were supported to clean their hands before eating, after nappy changing and outdoor play.
- 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.
- Nappy changing was carried out according to the service policy and best practice guidelines.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff were familiar with the service medication administration procedure and the records that were required to be maintained when medication was given to a child while in the service. No child received medication during the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff members completed 10-minute sleep checks to include each child's colour, breathing and position. Shoes and outer clothing such as shoes, tops and trousers were removed from children while they slept.
- The temperature of the back room was maintained between the recommended temperature of 18 °C to 22°C for children aged from 1- 3 years while they sleep.

Fire Safety:

- The designated fire exit was illuminated and clear of any obstructions throughout the inspection and fire exit route in the event of an emergency was clearly displayed in the care rooms and main reception.

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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 insurance cover in place for 20 children attending the service on a sessional basis. The policy showed that the service was insured until 27/03/2027.