

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY287
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Name of Service:	RTE Childcare (managed by Wee Care Day Nurseries)
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Address of Service:	RTE Campus, Montrose House, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D04 P9N2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ian Buchanan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	24/08/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	43	PM	41
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	S Quigley, H Sutherland, D Stapleton
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).

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Description of service

RTÉ Childcare is a full day care service located on the grounds of the RTÉ campus in Donnybrook, Dublin 4. Education and care are provided on a full day care basis to children aged between six months and six years. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 07:30 and 18:00 hours. The service operates from a two storey, large period dwelling which has been purposely adapted for use as an early years service. Seven care rooms are currently in operation in the service, and two designated sleep rooms are available. A large enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises which has been divided into two separate play spaces.

Staffing

The service currently employs 18 staff members, not including the registered provider. On the day of inspection, 15 adults were present and working in the service including the manager and deputy manager. The registered provider was not present during the inspection and does not typically work directly 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/ information and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare, and Development of Child. As a result, the scope of the inspection included the following rooms; Baby, Fledgelings, Fledgelings 2, Toddlers, Monti Green, and Monti Yellow.

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 persons 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.

(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)

Following a discussion with the appointed person in charge it was confirmed that eight adults had commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 27 February 2025. Documentation required under Regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these eight adults as detailed below. The requirement of Regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed for all adults employed to work in the service.

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

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all of the adults employed.

(d) International police vetting was available for seven of the adults who had lived outside the state for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(3) The procedures specified above under Regulation 9(2) had been carried out prior to the adults commencing employment.

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(4) Documentation reviewed evidenced that five of the adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. Three adults who did not hold a recognised qualification held a letter of qualification recognition from the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE).

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 pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were 43 children present in the service being supervised by 13 adults during the inspection. The person in charge and deputising person in charge provided relief cover and support to the care rooms when required.

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Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1)
A sample of twelve records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspectors to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the twelve records detailed the required information under Regulation 15(1)(a) to (i).

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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;

Compliance Information

A review of documentation in each care room on the day of inspection evidenced that a record was kept in writing of the daily attendance of each preschool child.

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 inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely, exploring their environments, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. An adequate variety of equipment and materials were available to the children and were accessible on open low level shelving units. Older children used the toilet when they needed and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

Regular snacks and meals were provided to the children by the service, including a hot lunch. Staff sat with the children during mealtimes, creating a sociable atmosphere. Bibs were provided to protect children's clothing when eating. Staff promoted independence at mealtimes and provided support when needed. Additional portions of food were made available to children who needed it and alternative food options were available.

The rooms where children slept were calm and conducive to sleep. The children who had soothers were offered them when they were being placed to sleep. Staff provided the children with reassurance and comfort when settling them to sleep, sitting with them and speaking to them gently. Areas were available within the children's rooms where they could rest or take a break from activities if required. Information regarding children's daily routines were recorded in the care rooms to share with parents through an online application to allow for continuation of care.

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Non-Compliance Information

The individual sleep needs of one child aged three years were not met on the day of inspection as follows;
A child was observed lying on a mat in the outdoor play area asleep during the inspection. When this was queried by the inspector, the staff member present stated that children did not generally sleep within the care room. The child was subsequently taken to one of the designated sleep rooms, which was used by the younger children and placed into a cot. A short time later the child was removed from the cot with staff informing the inspector that the child did not wish to sleep. The child was subsequently returned to the outdoor area where he continued to display signs of tiredness.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

Management have met and spoken with staff within the 3-5 yr olds care rooms. At this meeting management reiterated how important it is to be aware of signs of tiredness and to follow procedures in place of putting the child to sleep/rest if required. Management have introduced a new policy and procedure in regard to sleep and rest for older care rooms.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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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

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.

Infection Control:

Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste. Cleaning schedules were in place, and the care rooms were observed to be clean.

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. Care plans were in place for children who required regular or emergency medication, and staff were familiar with these plans.

Safe Sleep:

Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

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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:

- At 13:49pm in the Baby room, a child was asleep in the rest area of the care room having been woken from sleep in the designated cot room. The inspector observed an adult lifting the sleeping child by one arm holding onto the child's wrist while attempting to wake the child and bring them standing to their feet. The child did not wake to stand up despite being pulled from the floor to their feet. The staff member lowered the child back down to the floor by the wrist. Lifting a child in this manner poses a risk of injury to the child.
- An electrical cable was hanging from a height to a low-level socket in reach of the children in the Fledgelings room where the protective cover had come away. The trunking of the cable was frayed exposing internal electrical wires which posed a risk of harm to a child.
- A combined climbing structure with a slide was in use in one section of the outdoor play area. Children aged one and two years were using this equipment during the inspection. A child aged one year was observed descending the slide unsupervised and fell forward upon reaching the end of the slide. The manufacturers guidelines for the unit state that the climbing structure is suitable for use for children aged three years and over. This may pose a risk of harm to a child.

Infection Control:

- Some of the nappy changing practices observed were at variance with the nappy changing policy in place in the service and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows;
 - A staff member was observed to change four children's nappies without cleaning the nappy changing mat between the changes.
 - A staff member was observed to re-dress children following nappy changing wearing the soiled gloves which were worn during the change.
- Children attending the Baby room did not wash their hands following outdoor play and prior to dinner. This was at variance with the handwashing policy in place in the service and posed a risk of cross contamination.

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6. A build-up of dirt, dust and debris were present on the children's toilet and the floor of the outdoor children's bathroom and required a deep clean.
7. The straps on the children's feeding chairs in the Baby room were heavily soiled and required cleaning.

Safe Sleep:

Some of the practice observed during sleep time were at variance with the safe sleep policy and procedure in place in the service and posed a risk of harm to a child as follows:

8. Although it is acknowledged that staff members preformed physical checks on the children, two babies aged 14months and 15months were sleeping alone in the designated sleep room with teddies in their cots.
9. Staff members did not perform regular checks on two sleeping children aged one year as required. The children were recorded as going to sleep at 12:07pm. At 12:30pm no checks had been recorded as having been completed on one of the children, and the other child had only been checked once at 12:10pm

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. An internal investigation is currently taking place, disciplinary procedures will be followed if applicable. Management will continue with staff supervision highlighting the importance of lifting a child correctly to prevent injury to the child.
2. The item and its wire have been moved to higher area out of reach of children. The trunking of the cable protecting internal electrical wires has been fixed. The health and safety officer will act immediately when they observe any lose cable or damaged trunking within the creche. The service health, safety and hygiene checklist will be signed off by creche manager as well as the health and safety officer.
3. The climbing structure has been removed from the creche. The service has separated the garden areas into two assigned spaces for the under two and over two year olds. All equipment will be age appropriate in these areas.

Infection Control:

4. The staff member who was at variance with the nappy changing policy was retrained immediately in the service's nappy changing policy. The health and safety officer will carry out regular training and demonstrations with staff on the service nappy change policy.

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5. The staff members in the Baby room were retrained in the service hand washing policy for babies. The health and safety officer will carry out regular training and demonstrations with staff on the service hand washing policy.
6. The outdoor toilet and floor were deep cleaned immediately. The service has implemented a cleaning rota for our outdoor toilet, this will be monitored by the health and safety officer.
7. The straps on the babies' highchairs were immediately cleaned with a nail brush and cleaning solution. The service has updated the weekly cleaning checklist in the Baby room to include the straps on the children's feeding chairs.

Safe Sleep:

8. The service policy has been updated and all staff informed to remove comforters once the child is asleep. The safe sleep policy has been updated to include removing comforters once the child is asleep and all staff were retrained in the updated safe sleep policy.
9. Staff were retrained on safe sleep practices in the Baby room. The health and safety officer will carry out regular checks on sleep records while the children are sleeping

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

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