

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY255			
Name of Service:	Teddyhouse Childcare			
Address of Service:	37 Rosan Glas, Ragoon, Co. Galway			
Eircode:	H91 PP99			
Name of Registered Provider:	Carlie Healy			
Service type:	Full Day			
Date of Inspection:	08/07/2026			
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	18
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla - Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality Assurance Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A- (1st Floor-Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway			
Inspection undertaken by:	F. Nic Dhonnacha			
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

Teddyhouse Childcare is situated in a residential area in Rahoon on the west side of Galway city. The service operates from Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 18:00. The preschool provides a full day care part time and sessional service. The building is a two-storey structure with childcare provided in three playrooms located on the ground floor. The younger children have access to a designated sleep room adjacent to the Toddler room and this playroom is converted after lunch time for the older children who are tired and require sleep provision. The rooms in the service included: the Toddler room (age range: one to two years), the Playgroup room (age range: two to three years) and the ECCE/ Montessori room (age range: three to five years). A kitchen, a staff room, nappy changing area and sanitary facilities are also available on the premises, all on the ground floor. The designated outdoor play area is located at the rear of the premises. The preschool offers a child centred preschool curriculum based on the children's interests.

Staffing

The registered provider works between her nearby partner services. There is a named person in charge and there is a named designated deputy person in charge. There is a total of seven adults working in the premises which includes the registered provider who is supernumerary, a person in charge, a deputy person in charge and four childcare workers. Seven adults in total had a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of a Level 5 to Level 8 in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

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

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- 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.

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.*

(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 registered provider works between her partner services. There is a manager who is the designated person in charge and a named deputy person in charge who was available as required.
- (b) The deputy person in charge was available onsite and the registered provider arrived mid-morning and remained onsite for a period of the inspection.

Seven staff files were reviewed which included the registered provider, person in charge, deputy person in charge and four childcare workers.

- (2)(a) Seven written references were sourced from past employers and were all validated.

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- (b) Where past employer references were not available, seven references were obtained from a source other than a past employer and were all validated.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all seven adults. 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 available for three adults who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out prior to any adults being appointed and having access to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (4) Seven staff working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 6 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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 inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (2) On the 8/07/2026 the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained during the inspection in the three playrooms. Four adults cared for 16 children in the morning and four adults cared for 18 children in the afternoon.

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Additionally, the deputy person in charge assisted with the administration part of the inspection, kitchen duties and relief when necessary. The registered provider provided relief where necessary and when necessary.

(8)(a) The staff roster demonstrated that more than two adults were available in the service at all times.

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*
- (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

Basic Needs:

(1)(a)(b)

- Each child was given enough time to eat and enjoy their snacks and meals without being rushed. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- The crockery, cutlery and drinking utensils used were suitable for the children's ages and stage of development.
- The staff responded to children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to toileting and toilet training.
- The children in the Toddler and Playgroup room who wore a nappy were changed when necessary in a kind and respectful manner while maintaining their dignity at all times.
- The older children had unrestricted access to the toilet and did not have to wait to use the toilet. Children were allowed to take their time during toileting.
- Children had plenty of opportunities to move themselves, to practice and improve their emerging skills, such as co-ordination and balance.
- There were cosy areas with soft seating in each of the playrooms. The service had stackable beds and individual linen for the children who required sleep provision.

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- The children had the freedom to play indoors or outdoors with direct access to the outdoor play area via the Playgroup room.

Supporting Relationships:

- The service provided parents and guardians with daily information, including activities involving their child, verbal communication at drop of and collection times, via phone calls or emails.
- Staff collated scrapbooks for the children my learning journal for each child, showing the 'child's journey' in the creche including samples of a child's work their individual milestones, strengths, interests, learning stories and staff observations.
- The staff listened to children in a caring, gentle way when they expressed emotions and reassured them that it is normal to experience positive and negative emotions at times. In each of the three playrooms, the children were given the choice on what to do next.
- The staff were observed helping children to find solutions, supporting them and talking to the children in a variety of ways while initiating games and activities. The staff provided significant opportunities for the child to decide their play activities and experiences both indoors and outdoors. The children played predominately with in the outdoor play area.
- The children from the Playgroup room and ECCE/Montessori room were observed playing with the sand utensils and shovels in the sand box, climbing on the activity centre, on tricycles and four-wheeler transport cars. While the younger children were observed sitting with the staff while building blocks and playing in the playhouse.
- The children played predominately outside on the day of inspection.
- Visual aids (picture and word reminders) and instructions were displayed and used with the children to support their learning. The atmosphere in the learning environment was encouraging and unhurried.
- The children were supported to be confident about their identity and to have a strong sense of belonging, while in the service.
- The staff used positive strategies to support children's inclusion. For example, the inspector noted that the staff acknowledged a child's engagement in an activity 'that is great' 'well done' and used questions such as 'what should we do next?', 'is there any other way to do this?', to allow children to critically think and explore various ideas.
- The staff supported children to enter social groups, and to learn to help and positively engage with other children. They encouraged and praised children for specific, positive and appropriate behaviours.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- A 3-week menu plan was available and on display at the entrance and in the kitchen.
- The food provided appeared colourful and nutritious.
- Breakfast is offered if a child is hungry, it consists of porridge, toast and fruit.
- The morning snack was served at approximately 10 am the children had rice cakes with banana and apple slices with water or milk to drink.
- The main hot meal is served at approximately 11.30am - 12pm. This included three food groups- chicken, noodles and sweetcorn with water or milk to drink.
- The afternoon snack included pancakes with strawberries and yogurt. The children who may be hungry or late in the service have another snack that consists of fruit, rice cakes, crackers and yogurts with milk or water to drink.
- The children were provided with age-appropriate crockery and utensils at snack and mealtimes.
- The children had access to their sippy cups of water throughout the day both indoors and in the outdoor play area.
- The staff working in the service were aware of the children with allergens and a list was available in the kitchen.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

- (a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*
- (b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

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Compliance Information

- (1) One adult working directly with the children held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training. It was acknowledged that an additional adult is booked to attend a FAR course in the next week.
- (2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the kitchen.
- (b) The first aid box was available in the service for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

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) Records of completed monthly fire drills were available. The most recent fire drill took place in June 2026.
- (b) Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system maintenance service took place 4/03/2026.
- (4) A fire action notice demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the service was available at the entrance in each playroom and at exit doors.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.
- (3) A registered provider of a sessional pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre shall ensure that a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

(4) Where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both,

the minimum clear floor space applicable for the duration of the sessional preschool service in respect of the children attending that service shall be the floor space specified in paragraph (3).

(5) A registered provider of a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a minimum of 2 square metres of clear floor space is available for each child attending the service.

(6) Subject to paragraph (7), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are no more than 22 children in a room in the service at any time.

(7) Paragraph (6) shall not apply where a registered provider contemporaneously provides-

(a) a sessional pre-school service, and

(b) a full day care service or a part-time day care service, or both.

Compliance Information

(1) Adequate floor space was provided in the playrooms for the free movement of children to work and play.

(2) The registered provider will ensure that the minimum clear floor space is adhered to for pre-school children attending the full day care service in respect of the age range of the children attending.

Age 1-2 years – 2.8 square meter per child.

Age 2-3 years- 2.35 square meter per child.

Age 3-6 years- 2.30 square meter per child.

The registered provider will ensure a minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child attending the sessional service within the full day care service.

(4)(a)(b) The measurement of

- The Toddler room is 16.93 square meters- Age range 1-2 years of age.
- The Playgroup room is 19.6 square meters- Age range 2- 3years.
- The ECCE/Montessori room is 22.4 square meters- Age range 3-6 years.
- A minimum of 1.818 square metres of clear floor space will be available for each child attending the sessional service.
- A minimum of 2.3 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 2 to 3 years, proposing to attend the full day care service.
- A minimum of 2.8 square metres of clear floor space will be available for children aged 1 to 2 years, proposing to attend the full day care service.

(5) Not applicable, as this preschool proposes to operate a full day care pre-school service.

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- (6) Not applicable, as the registered provider operates a full day care pre-school service.
- (7) The registered provider provides a full day care service.