

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015GY279
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Name of Service:	Treasure Island Creche: 1
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Address of Service:	Doughiska Road, Merlin Park, Co. Galway
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Eircode:	H91 FW25
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aideen Cruise
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	16/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	35	PM	34
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park Hospital, Galway. H91 ER2D.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Friel
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

Treasure Island Creche:1 offers early years care and education to children on a full time, part-time and sessional basis. While registered to accommodate children from 0 to 6 years of age the service currently facilitates children from 6 months to 6 years old. Opening hours are from 07:30 until 18:00, 51 weeks of the year. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme operates within these hours from 9:00 until 12:00 and is available for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is available in the afternoon from 13:30 until 18:00. The secure outdoor play areas are located at the rear of the service and car parking is available at the front of the building. The service is located in Doughiska, an urban area of Galway city. It operates from a single storey premises. Five of the care rooms are located within the main building namely- Baby, Tweenies, Toddler, Playschool and Pre-school. The ECCE/School age aspect of the service operates from a modular unit situated at the rear of the building. There is an office, kitchen, staff room, adult and children's toilets, two nappy changing rooms and two dedicated sleep rooms - Baby and Tweenies. In addition, the Playschool and Toddler care rooms were both in use as sleep rooms after lunch.

Staffing

There are 19 adults employed by the service, 13 of whom were on the premises on the day including a cook, 2 school age staff and the area manager.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety. 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 area manager, manager, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN: 2483	16/07/2026	Sleep rooms, where all children were aged over 12 months and care room temperatures which must be maintained between 18°C and 22°C were recorded over 22°C, posing a safety risk to the children: - Designated sleep room - Baby: Temperatures of 23.5°C-24.4°C between the hours of 10:45 and 13:55 Designated sleep room - Tweenies: Temperatures 24.5°C-25°C between the hours of 10:45 and 13:45 Toddler care room in use as a sleep room after lunch - temperature of 25.5°C at 13:05

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		Playschool care room in use as a sleep room after lunch- temperature of 25°C at 12:45 Pre-school care room – temperature of 27°C at 13:30
Status	The registered provider submitted corrective and preventive actions which were accepted and addressed the Statutory Notice.	

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.*
- (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.*
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

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Compliance Information

- (1)(a) There was a designated person in charge. A named deputy person was available as required.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that either the designated person in charge or named person were on the premises while the early years children were on the present.
- (c) The management structure was visible in the reception area and staff photographs and biographies were visible in the reception area.
- (2) Recruitment files and the staff roster indicated that there were 7 adults employed since the last inspection on 15 April 2025 therefore, these files were reviewed;
- (a) Ten of the 14 required written and validated references were from past employers.
- (b) The remaining 4 of 14 written and validated references were from sources other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the seven adults employed since the last inspection demonstrating compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Overseas police vetting was available for all seven adults who had lived outside the State as an adult for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) Recruitment files reviewed indicated that 2 of the 7 adults employed to work directly with the children had obtained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education ranging from at least Level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications and the remaining five adults had a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent
- (7)(a) Documentation was available to evidence that induction had taken place for all seven adults who had commenced employment in the service; which included the policies, procedures and statements of the service.

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*

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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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children in attendance.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratios were met. There were 35 early years children in attendance with 9 adults in the morning and 34 children in attendance with 11 adults in the afternoon.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were two adults on the premises while the early years children were present, this was evidenced on the staff roster and confirmed in conversation with staff.

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

Basic needs:

- Snacks and meals were provided by the service's on-site cook. Children attending on a full day care were offered at least two meals and two snacks. Examples included breakfast of oat and wheat cereals and toast served between 07:30 and 09:00. Additional measures were observed to be taken on the day, to address the hot weather, including providing ice lollies in the afternoon.
- Three-week menu plans visible on the wall of the kitchen evidenced that a wide variety of healthy and nutritious food was served throughout the period. All food served on the day was observed to be age and stage appropriate with the main lunch consisting of spaghetti bolognese. An adult working in the kitchen stated that alternative food was available in the event a child did not want what was on the menu.

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- Water, which was easily accessible to the children in the indoor and outdoor areas, was observed to be readily available from individual water bottles throughout the day, preventing dehydration and heat exhaustion.
- As the day was hot and humid additional measures for ensuring the wellbeing of the younger children in the sleep rooms was observed with children having access to fluids if required, supervised by the adults in each area.
- Nappy changes in the Tweenies and Toddler care rooms were observed being carried out on a regular basis and when required. Each child's dignity and privacy was observed to be respected with only one child being changed at a time. The adults were observed to be warm and sensitive to the children during the nappy changing procedure.
- Children in the Pre-school were able to access the sanitary area independently and were also observed being brought before break and lunch to wash their hands with adults nearby to assist, if required.
- Spare clothes were available and in use for children in the Toddler care room who got wet playing in the water in the outdoor play area, ensuring they were kept comfortable and dry.
- All care rooms had rest/quiet areas with suitable soft furnishings. Children were observed in these areas throughout the day taking regular breaks to come in to sit out of the heat of the sun. In addition, shade was available in the covered outdoors areas where the children were observed sitting at the picnic tables available carrying out activities.
- The adults stated the windows and doors were opened early, before the children arrived, to keep the rooms cool. Fans were visible in each care room and in the sleep rooms.
- Sun protection was applied by the adults before the children went outdoors. All the children were observed wearing sun hats covering their head, ears and neck.
- Children in the service were dressed in light dresses, shorts and t-shirts for the hot weather.

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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

General Safety:

- The main door was secured on arrival and answered by an adult ensuring that unauthorised adults could not enter the premises or that children could not leave unsupervised.
- Both the kitchen and adult's toilet doors were secured with sliding bolts preventing entry by the children.
- Blind cords in the care rooms and in the sleep, rooms were secured with hooks and stored out of reach of the children. In addition, a cord in the Baby changing area was inaccessible.
- Cleaning agents in the nappy changing area were observed to be out of reach of the children, preventing accidents from occurring.
- The ground surfaces on the outdoor play areas were covered in safety matting helping to cushion falls and reduce the risk of injury.
- The main outdoor play area was separated with dividers ensuring the safety of all the children and that each group play with age and stage appropriate toys and materials.
- The perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured by high concrete walls and high hedges.

Infection control:

- Mechanical ventilation was operating in the Tweenies nappy changing area ensuring the removal of stale air and the circulation of fresh air.
- Cots in the Baby and Tweenies designated sleep rooms were fitted with waterproof mattresses ensuring they could be easily cleaned after each use.
- Children's personal belongings in the Tweenies nappy changing area were stored in individually labelled and lidded boxes preventing cross contamination.
- Wash hand basins in use in the service were supplied with hot water, between 23.1°C and 36.9°C, dispensing soap and paper towels. Pedal operated bins were available for the disposal of paper waste.
- Nappy changing in the Tweenies sanitary area was observed to be carried out in line with the service's nappy changing policy; staff were observed hand washing before and after nappy changing, removing and disposing of single use gloves and aprons after each nappy change and disposing of used nappies in a pedal operated, sealed, lidded and lined bin and sanitising the mat and area after each nappy change.

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Administration of Medication:

- No medication was observed to be administered during the inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- Children sleeping/resting were observed to be put to sleep on appropriate sleep equipment for their age and stage of development. Four sleep rooms were in operation with no children aged under 12 months- designated Baby sleep room with 3 cots for children aged from 12 months to 22 months; designated Tweenies sleep room with 5 cots; Toddler care room for children aged 18 months to 24 months with 4 children on stackable beds and Playschool care room with 5 children on stackable beds aged from 2 years 6 months to 3 years 6 months.
- Physical sleep checks carried out every 10 minutes were furnished to the inspector for each child. These included the children's name, date of birth, breathing, colour, position, temperature of the area and the staff member's signature carrying out the sleep checks.
- Adults remained in the sleep rooms while the children were asleep and were observed carrying out additional measures to ensure the comfort of the children to stay cool while sleeping. Examples included staff removing clothing to the bare minimum.
- Blinds were kept down to ensure the children were not sleeping in the direct sunlight in all sleep rooms in operation.
- Cots and stackable beds in use during the hours of sleep were noted to be at least 50 centimetres apart, ensuring the safety of the children while sleeping.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency fire doors were unobstructed allowing the swift evacuation of adults and children in the event of an emergency.
- Fire extinguishers were secured by brackets on the wall outside the Pre-school care rooms.
- The fire assembly point was visible in the outdoor play area.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 2483 served.

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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.

Compliance Information

- (1) Certificates were available to evidence that at least three adults had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training. The staff roster confirmed that a person trained in first aid was available while the early years children were present in the service.
- (2)(a)(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes, which were easily accessible to the adults, in the care rooms and in the kitchen, were available to the adults while the early years children were on the premises.