

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK126
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Name of Service:	Little Seeds Childcare Moyross Community Enterprise Centre Ltd
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Address of Service:	Moyross Community Hub Moyross Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 V0NP
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marian Duggan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	05/08/2026
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Date of regulatory compliance meeting:	16/09/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	57	PM	57
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	Josetta Ryan
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

Little Seeds Childcare is a community service which provides sessional, part-time and full day education and care to pre-school children. It operates from 08.30hrs to 18.00hrs and is registered to cater for a maximum of 100 children aged 1-6 years.

The service operates from a purpose-built premises in an urban residential area. There are five care rooms in operation namely, Beetle room, Bumble Bee room, Caterpillar room, Ladybird room and Butterfly room. There is a dedicated sleep room with cots for children aged less than 2 years. Three separate outdoor play areas are located around the external perimeter of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is the chairperson of the preschool committee. A manager of the service is appointed to oversee the daily operations of the preschool. The service employs 41 staff. Staff working directly with the children have the required childcare qualifications that range from Level 5 to Level 8 on the national qualifications framework.

There are two staff members working in the kitchen with Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) training.

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, safety and premises. 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)(a)(b)(c)(d)(3)(4)(7) – Management and recruitment.

Regulation 10 – Policies and procedures of a pre-school service.

Regulation 11(2) - Staffing levels.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of the child.

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.

Additional Information

The inspection was triggered by information received in the Early Years Inspectorate.

Acknowledgments

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

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Escalation and Enforcement Actions

Action	Date	Detail
Regulatory Compliance Meeting	16/09/2026	A meeting was facilitated by the Inspection and Registration Manager with the Registered Provider to discuss the non-compliances identified on inspection and the corrective and preventative action response.
Status	The actions taken by the registered provider were accepted.	

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*

(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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(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.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A designated person in charge of operating the service was present on the day of the inspection. There was a named person available who was able to deputise if required.

(b) During the period of the inspection, the designated person in charge was present and the staff roster indicated that this person or their deputy was available on the premises at all times.

(2) There were no new staff appointed since the last inspection of the service on 07/07/2026.

(a) References were available and validated from past employers for staff members employed to work at the service.

(b) Validated references were submitted by staff from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for forty-one staff documented on the staff roster. The re-vetting timeframes of every three years as outlined in the early years inspectorate regulatory notice were in place for the required staff.

(d) Police vetting was not required as no staff member had resided outside of the jurisdiction for longer than six consecutive months.

(4) Thirty-five staff working directly with the preschool children held an appropriate qualification in early childhood care and education or an equivalent such qualification.

(7)(a) Evidence of recent training on the supervision policy for the service was available. The last staff meeting took place on 24/07/2026 where training on the reviewed policy was provided.

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Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The supervision of children indoors and outdoors policy had been updated since the last inspection of the service. It stated 'It was each staff members responsibility in line with their designated room to fill out a headcount sheet before leaving their base room and again when they reach their destination and before they leave the destination and have returned to their base room. This will ensure that all children are accounted for at all times'.

Evidence was available to demonstrate that this policy was being implemented. The headcount sheet was completed by staff in the ladybird room and available on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(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

An adequate number of staff were present and working directly with the children.

There were 20 staff working directly with 57 pre-school children in the morning and there were 20 staff working directly with 57 pre-school children in the afternoon.

The following demonstrated the number of children and staff present.

- Beetle Room - There were 6 children (1-2 years) and 3 staff present.
- Bumble Bee Room - There were 10 children (2-3 years) and 4 staff present.
- Caterpillar Room - There were 13 children (2 - 2.5 years) and 4 staff present.
- Ladybird Room – There were 14 children (3-4 years) and 4 staff present.

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- Butterfly Room – There were 14 children (3.5 – 5 years) and 5 staff present.

Designated staff were appointed for cooking, preparation of meals and administrative duties.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

Evidence that the health and safety statement of the service was being followed was not available following a recent incident and there were no hazard identification or risk assessments documented.

There has been six notifications of incidents in relation to individual children going missing within the service since November 2024.

This was at variance with the health and safety statement which set out the following steps to be taken following an incident.

- Hazard identification
- Assessment of risk associated with the hazard
- Implementation of control measures
- Monitoring and review

Evidence was not available to demonstrate that the health and safety statement for the service had been reviewed as it was drafted in May 2019 and had been signed off by managers who no longer were employed by the service.

Not completing health and safety risk assessments can pose a risk to the health and safety of both staff and children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety

Following the inspection dated 05/08/2026 the early years coordinator completed a risk assessment specific to a child going missing in the service focusing on 4 key steps. At the most recent staff meeting dated 24/08/2026, all staff received training on this risk assessment.

The early years coordinator has been in contact with the company's health and safety Officer to arrange for the services health and safety statement to be reviewed and updated as a matter of urgency.

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Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Risk assessment document.

Quotation for Health and safety statement.

Planned audit of all policy and procedures of the service by an external company.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider through the corrective and preventive action process and discussion at the regulatory compliance meeting will address the non-compliances identified. These actions will be assessed on next inspection.