

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

|                          |             |
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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015WX084 |
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|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Little Treasures Crèche |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|

|                            |                                                             |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 155 Bridgemeanows, Milehouse Road, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | Y21 WX86 |
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|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Kent Ashmore |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Sessional |
|----------------------|---------------------|

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 12/08/2026 |
|----------------------------|------------|

|                                   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 23 | PM | 21 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

|                                                 |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate<br>Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | E Mc Garry                                                                                   |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | 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 Treasures Creche is a privately owned and operated service which is registered to provide a full day care service to children aged from 1 to 6 years of age. The service is one of two owned by the registered provider situated in the housing development of Bridge Meadows in Enniscorthy. The sister service Little Treasures Montessori preschool and after school club is operated from 143 Bridgemedows. The service is operated from a two-story building, which consists of three preschool rooms, a sensory room, a kitchen, a hallway, toilets, nappy changing facilities and an outdoor play area to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a total of 26 staff who have access to both services. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. The service also employs a chef who cooks all the meals and snacks in both services. All staff who were working directly with the children held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

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Regulation 10 Policies and Procedures,  
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),  
Regulation 19 Health, welfare and development of child (a)(b)  
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4).  
Regulation 28 Insurance,  
Regulation 29 Premises.

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 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, 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.*

*(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;*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

#### Compliance Information

**(1)(a)(b)**

The manager was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

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(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the manager and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 12 new staff employed since the last inspection. All new staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection. All required written references were available on file.

(c)

There was evidence of Garda vetting available on file in the service for all 26 staff members and the registered provider. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff.

(d)

Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other Ireland for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

(4)

All staff working directly with the preschool children who held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Qualifications Framework

### 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

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on healthy eating and the policy on the management of accident and incidents in the service.

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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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

There was an adequate number of staff always working directly with the children for the duration of the inspection.

(3)

In the morning there were 23 children with 8 staff.

In the afternoon there were 21 children in the care of 7 staff.

The manager was available during the day of and was available to assist across the rooms as required.

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### 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*

*(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

(1)(a)

Children were engaged in a variety of activities during the inspection. The staff in the explorer's room were observed playing with the children and chatting to them during snack time. The children were encouraged to self-feed. This was supported by the service through providing the children with plates to promote independence in scooping the food onto utensils. The staff were encouraging as the children demonstrated their independence in trying to feed themselves.

The staff were observed to be kind and considerate on the day of inspection. Children were held and comforted, and staff were observed to engage and listen to their news from home. Similar practices of warmth were observed in the adventurer's room where children were provided with comfort by the staff throughout the inspection.

Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable on the children's likes, dislikes and family background. For example, children in the explorer room were observed to be particularly proud of their new runners. The staff members demonstrated a similar relationship with the children's families through conversations discussing their older brothers and sisters who had also attended the service.

All three preschool rooms were resourced for the play and stimulation of the children attending the service. For example, the pirate room was a long narrow room situated on the first floor. There was an extensive shelving unit to store the large collection of books for the children to look at.

(b)

There was one sleep room in the service with full sized cots for children to sleep in. There were cot beds for older children to sleep in in the afternoon which were set up in the sensory room. Children were assisted when going to the toilet as required. Information on the children's daily activities were shared with parents on the mobile phone

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app in use in the service. There were rest areas in all the rooms consisting of low sized couches and cushions for the children to rest on during the day.

Children who needed help when toileting were given assistance as required. Nappy changing was attended to frequently throughout the day. The nappy changing area was well organised and easy for staff to navigate.

### 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

The service promoted healthy eating and had a healthy eating policy. All snacks and meals were prepared in the service by a chef who cooked from the onsite main kitchen at 155 Bridgemedows. The dinner was served at mid-day and consisted of savoury mince potatoes, vegetables and gravy. The food provided was prepared and served to meet the stages of development of the children. For example, the food for younger children was a mashed/lumpy texture and the older children's dinner was served whole. There was a 4-week rotating menu in the service. Children were served cups of milk with their dinner, and many children were given more when they asked for extra. Staff sat with the children chatting to them and gave them assistance if required. Children in the explorer room had washable bibs supplied to them and were helped to wash their hands and faces when they finished their meal.

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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

Access to the service was gained through the front door which led to a hallway. There was a hatch where staff in the office could verify the person before allowing them access to the service. The openings of the windows were restricted with appropriate restrictive opening devices.

#### Infection Control

The service appeared to be clean with no maintenance required. Staff were observed to be vigilant helping children to wash their hands at various stages on the day of inspection. For example, before eating, after messy play and after toileting. There was liquid soap and paper hand towels available for hand drying throughout the service. Staff were seen to attend to children's personal hygiene during the day. Mouthing toys and soothers were washed and sterilised daily. The nappy changing policy was on display in the nappy changing unit next to the explorer room.

#### Administration of medication

There was an administration of medication policy. The staff showed the inspector the procedure to follow when a child required administration of medication. Records of administration of medication was recorded on the service's tablet.

#### Safe Sleep

The service had a designated sleep room located beside the explorer room. Children were observed sleeping in cots. A staff member stayed in the room to supervise the sleeping children in their care. Older children slept in the sensory room on the ground floor in the service. The room was illuminated with colourful lights and there was music playing which helped to establish a comforting environment for the children.

Staff were observed to be vigilant in observing and recording sleep observations on the sleeping children including colour, position and breathing rate and the optimum sleep room temperature.

#### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control

Staff were observed carrying out five nappy changes on the day of inspection. Staff were observed not changing gloves not washing their hands, not washing children's hands or cleaning the nappy changing unit during the five

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nappy changing procedures. This practice was contrary to the policy in place in the service and the nappy changing procedure which was on display on the wall of the nappy changing unit.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

The manager discussed the outcome of the recent inspection with the staff at a staff meeting following the inspection. The importance of infection control and adhering to the nappy changing policy in place in the service was discussed. All staff have been retrained in hand washing. A poster detailing the hand-washing procedure has been positioned beside all the hand-washing sinks in the service to remind staff to adhere to the procedure.

Supporting documentation submitted:

1. Minutes of staff meeting following the inspection.
2. Handwashing poster now on display
3. Nappy changing policy including hand washing between all nappy changes.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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)  
There was a person trained in a PHECC accredited First aid course available. There were three staff trained in this course which was sufficient to cover the rota in the service.

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(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box for children stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service and was available to the children at all times.

### 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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill had taken place in the service on July 26.

(b)

There was a record available on file stating the firefighting equipment was last serviced in August 2026, and smoke alarm was last serviced in May 2026.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the main entrance of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.

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### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

#### Non-Compliance Information

The day of inspection was particularly warm with high temperatures recorded throughout the county.

The temperatures recorded in the three preschool rooms and the rooms where children over one was sleeping were over the recommended temperature of between 18°C and 22°C on the afternoon of the inspection.

Please see below range of temperatures recorded on the day of inspection.

| Room                                            | 12.45                                                | 15.00                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Explorers                                       | 24.7°C                                               | 26.8°C                          |
| Adventurers                                     | 26.1°C                                               | 29.1°C                          |
| Pirates                                         | 25.2°C                                               | 29.6°C                          |
| Sleep room beside explorers                     | 25.1 °C<br>5 children aged between 1 and 2 sleeping. | 25.8°C<br>No children sleeping  |
| Sensory room (sleeping room for older children) | 23.6°C<br>5 children aged between 2 and 3 sleeping   | 23.8 °C<br>No children sleeping |

It is acknowledged staff were vigilant in encouraging children to keep hydrated. Staff were observed refilling jugs of water which were stored in the fridges and dispensing it to the children. Children were lightly dressed in shorts and tee-shirts and sundresses.

1.

Both rooms where the children who were over one were sleeping had mechanical air conditioning units in place. They were turned on while the children were sleeping. However, they did not maintain the rooms at the required

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temperature. The thermometer in the sleep room beside the explorer's room was not plugged in when the children were put down not sleep at 12:45. Staff were not aware that the temperature was 25.1 °C. Staff should always be aware of the temperature in sleep rooms.

2.

The thermometer in the sensory room where children aged between 2 and 3 were sleeping was broken so staff were not aware of the raised temperature in the room while the children were sleeping. Staff should be aware of the temperature in sleep rooms at all times.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1.2.

All staff have been made aware of the required temperatures to be maintained in the preschool rooms. Posters highlighting the required temperatures have been placed in all rooms as well as ideas for cooling a room when required. The manager has purchased new room thermometers to be placed in all rooms.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

1.

A copy of the posters displaying the required temperatures was received by the inspector.

2.

A receipt for the purchase of the new room thermometers now in place in the service was received by the inspector.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.