

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DY036
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Name of Service:	Early Journeys
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Address of Service:	74 Shantalla Road, Beaumont, Dublin 9
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Eircode:	D09 AY28
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rita Keszei
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Service type:	Full Day Care
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Date of Inspection:	30/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	12	PM	12
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C. Harte
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

Early Journeys is a full day care service located in a residential area of Dublin 9 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 40 sessional and 18 full day care children aged 3 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programme sessional service in the mornings during term time from 9.00am to 12.00pm and provides a school age service in the afternoons. The service is one of two services operated locally by the registered provider.

Early Journeys operates from a converted retail building, with two care rooms. The ready for school room operates on the ground floor and the ECCE room on the first floor. There are sanitary facilities located off the care rooms and further sanitary facilities are available for staff. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.

On the day of the inspection the preschool children were being cared for in the room on first floor and school aged children in the room on the ground floor.

Staffing

The registered provider currently employs five staff to work within the service including the person in charge, a staff member to work in the kitchen, and three staff who work directly with the children who also work with school age children. The registered provider does not work directly in the service but attended the service on the day of inspection to greet the inspectors and attend the feedback meeting. The registered provider, person in charge and three early years qualified staff were present in the service on the day of inspection.

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. 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.

Additional Information

This inspection was triggered by information received to the inspectorate.

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, 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.*

(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.

(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) The registered provider ensured that:
 - (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of records showed that either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service on the day of inspection.
 - (c) There was a clear management suture in place and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. Two of these new staff members work directly with the preschool children. A review of information demonstrated that garda vetting disclosures for existing staff were all in date.
The registered provider had completed the following checks:
 - (a) Four validated references were available from past employers.
 - (b) Two validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for three adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that two staff members who worked directly with the preschool children held 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) Through discussions with staff and sample documentation reviewed on inspection there was evidence to show that staff had been provided and received training on policies and procedures.
 - Training included topics such as health and safety, infection control, behaviour management and child safeguarding.
 - A sample review of four records showed staff had been provided with an opportunity to meet with management on a one-to-one basis.

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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) The registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example 2 staff were working directly with 12 preschool children on the day of inspection. The person in charge was supernumerary and available to provide support in the care room as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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 following practices were observed in place to support the children attending:

- Staff were observed to use soft tones when engaging with children. Guidance was provided for conflict resolution with peers.
- Mealtimes were observed to be regular, and children were given ample time to enjoy their food. The main meal on the day of inspection was a beef stew served with mashed potato and vegetables. Children were

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provided with additional portions. Following mealtimes, it was observed that once children were finished, they could leave the tables and engage in play.

- Drinks were available to the children throughout the inspection. A selection of cups and a jug with drinking water was placed by a low-level sink.
- Staff assisted children with toileting as required. Staff referred to training regarding appropriate toileting practices considering the age and stage of the children attending. Toilets had individual cubicles with doors supporting privacy.
- Staff advised that suncream is present on the premises for days with warm weather.
- Staff supported children's independence by prompting self-care skills such as placing finished items into the bin, collecting their dinners and handwashing.
- Staff advised that parents collect children from the main entrance and a verbal daily handover is provided. It was explained that in the event a longer conversation is required, parents have the opportunity to enter the service and speak with the person in charge or deputy person in charge.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
 - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
 - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) a record in writing is kept of a complaint made to the provider in respect of the pre-school service, and
 - (b) the complaint is duly dealt with in accordance with the provider's complaints policy.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
 - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.

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Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the following:

- (1) There was a complaints policy maintained which outlined the following:
 - (a) The procedures to be following when making a complaint.
 - (b) The way complaints would be dealt with.
 - (c) The procedures for keeping the complainant informed on how the complaint is being dealt with.
- (2) (a)(b) A complaints log was retained and a record in writing is kept of complaints made to the provider. The inspector viewed one complaint received to the service since the last inspection and records show that this complaint was being duly dealt with in line with the services policy.
- (3) A review of records referred to in (2)(a):
 - (a) Detailed the nature of a complaint and approach to handle it.
 - (b) The record was made available on the day of the inspection.