

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2024CC002
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Name of Service:	Tinga Tinga Creche
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Address of Service:	Midleton Rugby Football Club, Towns Park, Midleton, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P25 KP03
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Name of Registered Provider:	Manuela Tortora
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	06/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	30	PM	31
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Tinga Tinga Creche is an early years service that opened in January 2024. It is registered to accommodate children aged from 0 to 6 years. Daily opening hours are from 7.30am to 6.00pm each day Monday to Friday. The service operates from a single storey modular building that is located on the grounds of Midleton Rugby and Football Club situated in the outskirts of Midleton town, Co Cork.

The service consists of two spacious playrooms named the Wobbler room and the Toddler room. There is an entrance hall area, designated separate sleep room, staff kitchenette/administration office. Adult and children's toilets and nappy changing facilities. There is a partially enclosed outdoor play area located beside the service. This service is part of a multiple service provider.

Staffing

There were 16 adults attached to the service on the day of inspection. This included the registered provider who is not service based, the person in charge, 12 early years educators, 1 chef and 1 student completing their work placement.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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.

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*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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 service had a designated person in charge and deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection.

(b) A person in charge or named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service. This was identified through review of staff rota and staff sign in records.

(c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge, deputy person in charge and early years educators.

(2) There were 16 adults attached to the service. All 16 files were open to inspection.

(a) Of the 32 references required, 26 validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Of the 32 references required, 6 validated references were available from an alternative source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all 16 adults with direct access to children. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of the report.

(d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for 6 of the 16 adults working in the service. All required documentation was available on file for the six adults.

(3) The registered provider ensured to carry out all checks and validations mentioned in (9) (2) prior to the adults commencing in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(4) The 14 adults working directly with children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 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) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.

- In the Wobbler room in the morning, there were 4 staff working with 10 children, aged between 1 year and 6 months and 2 years and 4 months, all attending full day care. In the afternoon there were 4 staff present with 11 children. One student completing their student placement was also present in the room.
- In the Toddler room in the morning, there were 4 staff working with 20 children, aged between 2 years and 3 years and 5 months, all attending full day care. In the afternoon there were 4 staff present with 20 children.

(8) Following review of the staff roster, it was evident that at least two adults were present on the premises at all times.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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

(1) (a)

Basic needs:

- Children had access to their water bottles throughout the day.
- Meals were served at appropriate times throughout the day.
- The children were observed independently accessing the sanitary areas. The staff were available to provide assistance, if required. Nappy changing was conducted regularly and as needed throughout the day.
- There was a supply of tissues available to the children and staff supported children with cleaning their noses when required.

Supporting relationships:

- Children were encouraged in developing their independence skills for example; putting their own coats and shoes on and staff supported children when required.
- The staff in both playrooms were observed to be caring and kind towards the children and other adults in the room. Staff used soft tones when speaking with the children and spoke to them at child level.
- During mealtimes, a relaxed social environment was evident. Staff allowed children to eat at their own pace and engaged in conversations with the children at mealtimes.
- Staff were observant of children's needs and were seen to comfort children when they were upset.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate equipment available for the number of children attending the service. The service had additional toys and materials on the premises. It was observed on day of inspection that the service provided a number of sensory activities including water play, sand play and modelling dough.

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 provided breakfast, morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack on the day of inspection. These meals were served at appropriate times throughout the day. Additional snacks were available if required. Snacks observed on the day of inspection included oranges, apples and rice cakes in the Wobbler room and oranges and crackers in the Toddler room. The hot meal observed in the Wobbler room was spaghetti bolognese and spaghetti and meatballs in the Toddler room. The afternoon snack included cheese sandwiches, banana's, strawberries and peppers in the Wobbler room and potato waffles, spaghetti hoops and a choice of fruit in the Toddler room. Children's water bottles were re-filled regularly throughout the day.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 internal and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- Toys and equipment assessed appeared in good condition and were well maintained.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.

Infection control:

- Perishable food was observed to be stored in the refrigerators.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables and chairs between activities.
- Foot operated bins were available in each room and sanitary facility.
- Appropriate water temperatures were recorded in the sanitary facilities between 21.8°C to 27.1°C.

Administration of medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection. Discussion with staff ensured staff were aware of the correct process for administering medication in the event it was required.

Safe sleep:

- Staff conducted regular 10-minute sleep checks on children sleeping, a staff member was also present at all times while children were sleeping on floor beds. These checks were recorded on the service mobile application device.
- A suitable sleep room temperature was recorded at 21.8°C.

Fire safety:

- Fire equipment was available which included fire extinguishers.
- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and clearly identified.

Non-Compliance Information

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

General safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
2. The radiator cover in the hallway near the Toddler room was not secured to the wall. It was observed to be loose and posed a safety risk to the children accessing the Toddler room.
3. It was observed that the Wobbler room children's spare clothes were stored in plastic boxes in the wobbler nappy changing room. These were stacked high and not stable. This posed a safety risk to the child.

Infection control:

4. During a routine nappy change, it was observed that the child's hands were not washed after the nappy changing procedure. This posed a risk of infection to the child.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General safety:

1. A Garda vetting application was submitted for the adult member. Staff members have access to all their renewal information and will monitor their files going forward.
2. The radiator cover in the hallway was securely fastened to the wall. This has been added to the staff member's monthly checks.
3. The spare clothes boxes were removed, and staff were made aware not to stack the boxes in the area.

Infection control:

4. The registered provider stated that all children's hands are to be washed after nappy changes. Staff were made aware of the importance of hand washing during the nappy change process.

Supporting documentation submitted

General safety:

1. Evidence of the garda vetting application and garda vetting disclosure was forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.
2. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.
3. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Infection control:

4. Photographic evidence was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance's identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that staff checked in and out each child attending the service. This was completed through the use of the service's mobile application and roll books. This was observed to be regularly completed throughout the day.

(3)

(a) The person in charge ensured that no person other than a child attending the service, the person dropping or collecting the child, staff or unpaid worker could enter the premises without being approved.

(b) A daily record of persons entering the premises was kept onsite and was available to the inspector.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) The service had maintained a record on the following:
- (a) Each fire drill that had taken place in the service. The last recorded fire drill was 08 June 2026.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire was displayed in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms was available. However, it was identified on inspection that the servicing records were out of date. The date of last service was 19 February 2025. Servicing of the equipment and alarms is to be conducted annually as stated on the service records. The person in charge promptly organised for the fire equipment and alarms to be serviced.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service contacted the servicing agency, and all alarms and fire fighting equipment was serviced following the inspection. The next service due date has been added to the calendar.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence of all service records was received by the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The noncompliance identified under Regulation 26 (1) (b) has been adequately addressed.