



# **A Guide to Reading a Tusla Early Years Inspection Report**

## 1. Introduction

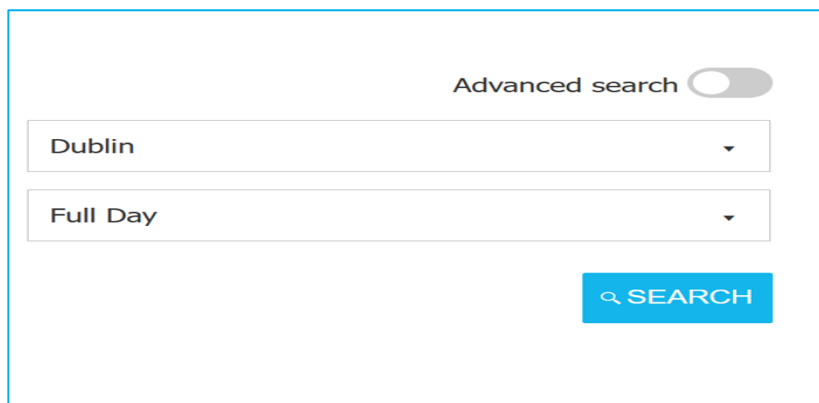
Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator responsible for regulating early years services. This means that the Inspectorate registers early years services and conducts inspections in services. When choosing an Early Years Service for your child or if your child is already in a service, it is always good to have further details about the safety and quality of care and early learning provided in the service, and the service's levels of compliance with the [Child Care Act 1991 \(Early Years Services\) Regulations 2016](#). The service's most recent inspection report is a great place to start. Parents/guardians can ask the Registered Provider to provide them with the most recent report, or they can check on the Tusla website to read the report. There are also additional resources for parents/guardians available [on the Inspectorate's website](#).

*Note: Early years services include Childminding services, Pre-school services, School-age services. You can read more about the different types of services [here](#).*

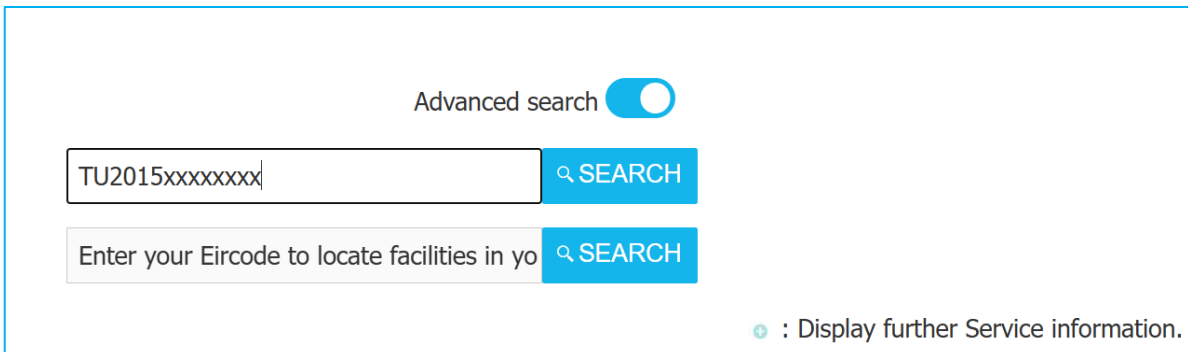
## 2. Accessing an Inspection Report from the Tusla website

To access a report, log on [www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/](http://www.tusla.ie/services/preschool-services/creche-inspection-reports/) You can search for a service by county and service type.

Or you can search using the advanced search option if you already know the service's Tusla number, the service name or Eircode.

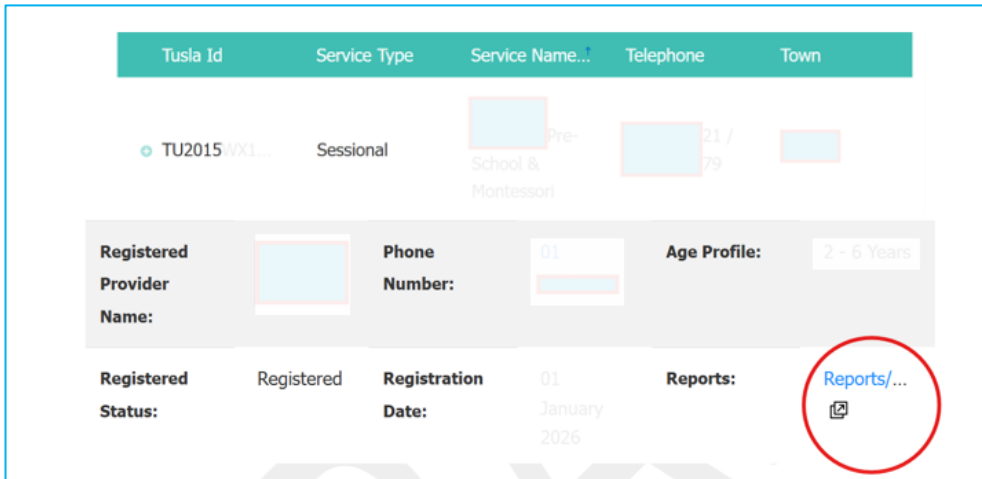


**For each service you can access the following information:**



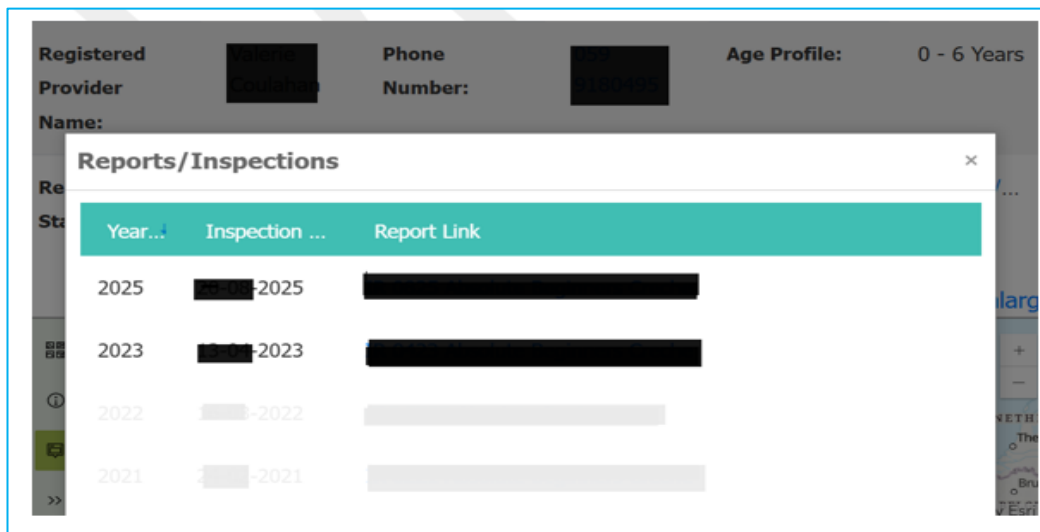
- The name, address and contact details for the Registered Provider and the service
- Details of Registered Providers / Persons in charge
- The registration category of the service.

- Published inspection reports for the service (the link to where to access reports is circled in red below) *Reports are available for 3 years from the date of publication, after which they are archived.*
- Details of registration, including any conditions attached to registration



*In the above example identifying information has been redacted.*

When you click on the inspection report link in the example, you will open a window that lists the dates of previous inspection and a report link to access the report for that date.



### 3. Reading the Report

The inspection report is set out in a number of sections. These are listed below in the order they appear in the report.

#### ➤ Inspection Information

The report will set out identifying information on the service, the Registered Provider and Person in Charge, the service type (example; full day care), the date of inspection, the number of children present in the service on the day of inspection and the name of the Inspector.

#### ➤ Description of the service

The report includes a description of the premises including the outdoor areas, the staffing levels, the range of qualifications of the staff, the opening hours and any other relevant information. This information will provide you with more details about the service and will support you in deciding if the service may meet your needs and those of your child.

### ➤ Methodology for Inspection

Here the report will outline how the Inspection was conducted. It will tell you the factors that the Inspector considered when planning the inspection (for example, previous inspection reports, concerns, and other information received relating to the service).

The section will also give information on what findings of the inspection were based on. It may tell you if certain rooms were included in the service, particularly if the service is large. It will also tell you if any non-compliances with the regulations were identified on inspection. These will be set out in more detail in the report and the Registered Provider's responses may be included where relevant.

Any additional information relevant to the Inspection will be recorded in this section.

The Inspector will also acknowledge those that cooperated with the Inspection process on the day of inspection.

### ➤ Enforcement Information

This section has two tables and is only be completed if this section is relevant. The 1<sup>st</sup> table records any Statutory Notices that were issued on or after the Inspection. You can read more about Statutory notices and Orders [here](#).

Statutory Notices		
Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN	31/03/2026	The detail of the notice will be recorded here
<b>Status</b>	.	

The 2<sup>nd</sup> table will record any Escalation and Enforcement Actions that are relevant for the service. You can get more information about escalation and enforcement [here](#)

Escalation and Enforcement Actions		
Action	Date Served	Detail
Regulatory Compliance Meeting	31/03/2016	Details of escalation and enforcement actions will be recorded here.
<b>Status</b>	.	

### ➤ Regulations Inspected

The regulations that the Early Years Service was inspected on are stated in the report. By reading more about each regulation, you will be aware of what the Registered Provider must do to be fully compliant. The [Quality and Regulatory Framework](#) provides guidance on what compliance with the regulations looks like in practice. In this section, the report will give the

full text of the regulation that was inspected. This will be followed by compliance and non-compliance information.

### **Compliance Information**

The inspection report identifies where the Early Years Service was compliant with each regulation inspected. This information will show you how well the service is meeting its obligations to provide safe and good quality early learning and care provision.

### **Non-Compliance Information**

The report also records any areas of non-compliance with the regulations that were identified on the day of inspection.

### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

Following the inspection and the issuing of the draft inspection report, the Registered Provider is given an opportunity to advise the Inspectorate on how they will correct any non-compliances found on inspection, and to show how they will prevent the non-compliance from re occurring. The Registered Provider must show evidence to support any information they submit to the Early Years Inspector.

<b>Compliance Information</b>
The Inspector will record the areas where the service <u>is in compliance with</u> the regulation inspected.
<b>Non-Compliance Information</b>
The Inspector will record the areas where the service is not in compliance with the regulation inspected.
<b>Corrective &amp; Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider</b>
<b>Corrective and Preventive Action</b>
The Inspector will say what actions the Registered Provider has taken to ensure the non-compliance is corrected and will not reoccur.
<b>Supporting documentation submitted</b>
Information on any relevant documents will be recorded here.

## **4. Support**

If you have any questions or concerns about the Inspection Report for your child’s service, you can speak to the Registered Provider or Person in Charge of the service.

If your question or concern is not satisfactorily answered or addressed, you can forward your concerns to Tusla’s [Early Years Inspectorate Concerns Team](#).

For general queries on this guidance or any aspect of regulatory inspections and reports, you can contact [rpdd@tusla.ie](mailto:rpdd@tusla.ie)

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<b>Version:</b>	V3.0
<b>Date of this issue:</b>	31/03/2026