

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms playing on a large play mat. The mat features a winding road with dashed white lines, green grassy areas, and a black train with yellow accents. One boy, in the foreground, is smiling and looking up at the camera while holding a red toy car. The other boy, in the background, is lying on his stomach, focused on playing with small colorful blocks. The scene is set on a light-colored wooden floor.

# TIGERS

Childcare

After School Care



“Children need the freedom and time to play.  
Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.”

Kay Redfield Jamison



## Welcome to Tigers Childcare

Tigers Childcare provides high quality early education and care for children age 4 months to 13 years. We understand the importance of these early years in a child's life.

We provide high quality environments, interactions and experiences that help each child reach their own potential. Your child's entry into our programme marks a wonderful journey for both you and your child. Although this may be your child's first experience of group learning, we see each child as an individual and their journey as unique.

We employ passionate childcare professionals. Our internal training programmes mean our learning is dynamic and evolving continually. Our practitioners use the child themselves as the lead in all learning. A programme is built around each child's unique needs to provide a stimulating, safe, and nurturing environment.

We wish to extend a warm and friendly welcome to you and your child into our Tigers Childcare family. We hope your years at Tigers Childcare are filled with learning, growth and a sense of belonging.

Karen Cline  
Managing Director





# Why Tigers After School

Choosing after school care is an incredibly important decision in a child's life. It has long been established that the early years have a long lasting effect on a person's life.

The philosophy of the Tigers After School Care programme is that all children should be allowed time for unstructured play after their school day in a safe, warm, familiar and caring environment, where all children feel special and that they belong. The aim of Tigers is to provide safe, pleasant, relaxing and stimulating care. We endeavor to offer children a place where they will enjoy spending time in an environment that parents feel comfortable with. Our focus is on each child's social and emotional development. After the school day we encourage the children to use their free time as they wish. They are welcome to become involved in planned activities or to play independently as they wish.

## Our families love:

- Our rich environments with state of the art materials
- Our dedicated key staff member for each child
- Our open door policy
- Our daily Child Paths application for up-to-date minute-by-minute feedback and learning stories live, as they happen
- The fact that we operate within the child's school setting
- Our dedication to listening to the child's voice
- Our supervised homework time
- Our emphasis in social and emotional development and independence
- Our ability to drop children to onsite extra curricular activities
- Our dedication to learning, training and self reflection



Tigers After School Care is much more than a childcare service. We use the latest in research and thinking to provide child-centered, individualised care for every child. Our aim is that every child in our Tigers family will reach their own potential regardless of ability or background.





# Tigers After School Care

At Tigers After School Care we provide school-age children on site in primary schools and community centres in the greater Dublin region.

Our experience of providing school based childcare is unrivalled. We are the largest afterschool care provider in Ireland. We work closely with the County Childcare Committees and Early Childhood Ireland to ensure high standards. We use both Siolta and Aistear as tools in supporting higher standards and a quality curriculum for children in our care. Although afterschool care is currently an unregulated market place, Tigers uses the TUSLA inspection tool and early childhood regulations to regulate our care. Due to the fact all of our centres are school or community based, we have successfully learned how to seamlessly integrate ourselves into the school environment.

## *Types of care and services offered:*

We offer a number of childcare options. These options are designed to offer as flexible a service to the parents as possible.

## *Breakfast Club*

Breakfast Club runs from 7:30am until school begins, Monday to Friday during school term. Children will be provided with a nutritious breakfast before starting their school day. Breakfast will include cereals, toast and breads along with milk and breakfast juices.

During the remaining time children will be free to play with their friends or use any of the equipment at Tigers. Organised activities will also be available for children although children can opt in and out of these activities.







### *After School – Full Time Care*

Children will attend Tigers from Monday to Friday from the time school ends until 6:30pm. These children will also attend during any in-service days or days upon which the school is closed (other than holidays, mid-term breaks, bank and public holidays). The rate for Full Time Care excludes Breakfast Club and camps.

### *After School – Hour Club*

Hour Club is run for Junior and Senior infant children. Hour Club accommodates parent with children in older classes with one pick up time.

### *After School – Homework Club*

The Homework Club is run for school going children in first class and above attending Tigers from Monday to Thursday. The programme runs from 2:40pm – 3:40pm and provides children with an hour of tutored homework time. All homework is checked by the supervisor and ticked and initialed in the child's homework journal when completed.

Each night parents should check that homework is satisfactorily completed and sign their child's homework journal. All reading homework is done at home.

### *In-Service Days / Camps*

Care is provided during in-service days (not mid-term breaks). On these days Tigers operates from 7:30am until 6:00pm. In-service day care may be offered in a centre other than the one your child usually attends e.g. if a school is being used as a polling station we will accommodate your child in another nearby location. You will be given advance notice of this. In-service day care is not included in your monthly fee and a €20 fee must be paid if your child is to attend on an in-service day.

Camps are held during mid-term breaks (excluding Christmas holidays), for two weeks of the Easter Holidays and for 6 weeks during the summer. Camps are usually held in one location and not in each individual centre. To enroll your child in any of our camps you are required to complete a registration form and pay a non-refundable deposit.



## Order of Daily Activities

Listed below is the general routine at Tigers. This is a guideline and may change.

### *1:30 – 2:30: Hour Club*

Children are brought to the Tigers room and given a snack. The snack will consist of a drink, fruit, yoghurts, crackers, cheese etc.

On special occasions treats will be provided. The children will then be allowed 45 minutes of free play time. Below is an example of the activities that are planned for the children in Hour Club – please note that the activities are subject to change.

**Monday – Wii games**

**Tuesday – Arts & Crafts**

**Wednesday – Board games/Circle games**

**Thursday – Free play**

**Friday – Movie**

Children can choose to play in small groups with any of the toys provided as well as the Wii and computer. Children may also decide to do art and crafts in this time. In fine weather children will be allowed supervised play outside.

### *2:30 – 3:30: Homework Club*

Homework Club is an opportunity for children to do their homework in a quiet school environment. Children will sit by themselves and have their homework journals are out so that homework can be checked by a supervisor. Children are encouraged to do all written tasks first. Each exercise will be checked by a supervisor before a child starts on the next exercise. When a supervisor is happy that a child is worked on an exercise to the best of their ability their journal will be ticked and initialed. Learning homework (spellings, tables etc) will be checked once all written work is completed. Children will be checked on this work daily. Reading homework must be completed at home.

We believe that this type of homework should be done with a child's parent on a one to one basis. Each child must have a parent check and sign their homework journal daily. It is up to each parent to take responsibility for their child's homework and make sure that all work is done to the best of their child's ability. Homework Club is one hour of supervised homework time. If your child's homework is not finished in this time they must go on to complete it at home.

### *2:30 – 3:00: Arts & Crafts*

Junior and Senior infant children as well as children not taking part in Homework Club will be given this opportunity to wind down and relax after their day. Children are given this opportunity to have some one on one time with their care givers. This time is used for art and crafts activities or free play – the children decide which they would prefer.

Younger children may wish to use this time as an opportunity to take a nap. Nap mats will be provided for any child who wants one during this time.

### *3:00 – 3:30: Get Moving*

The importance of physical activity for children cannot be stressed enough these days. Tigers recognise this fact and will use this time so children can partake in some form of exercise. We use the sports hall when it's available to us and in fine weather the children are brought outside. Children will be encouraged to take part in movement games.

From time to time outside groups will be brought into Tigers in order to give children at Tigers access to some professional coaching. These classes are non-compulsory and will run at an extra cost to the parents. All outside coaches will be supervised by a staff member.

### *3:35 – 4:15: Dinner*

Hot meals are provided by our catering service 'Moon and Spoon'. These meals are made specifically for children and contain no artificial ingredients. All dietary requirements are catered for but need to be specified in advance.

### *4:15 – 6:15: Theme (Wk1) Free Play (Wk 2)*

Children can use this time to play games with their peers. Again children can choose to play in small groups with any of the toys provided as well as the Wii and computer. Children may also decide to do art & crafts in this time.

Every second week brings a new 'theme' to Tigers. We ask children for their help in deciding on the themes – they can range from zoo animals to dinosaurs – the children decide. Activities, art and crafts and games are then based on the theme of the week.

### *6:15 – 6:30: Tidy Up*

Children will be given this time to relax so that they are not over excited when their parents arrive. At this time children may read a book from the library.

### Flexibility of care

Our service is extremely flexible, allowing parents to choose a childcare path that suits their needs. Subject to availability, parents can choose the days that suit their needs and include camps to allow a spread payment throughout the year.

### Quality Service

The school age childcare market is still completely unregulated. This allows poor quality services to exist. At Tigers we are working hard with County Childcare Committees and Early Childhood Ireland to change this and bring regulation of services to the market place.

We use Siolta as a quality assurance document in regulating and maintaining quality in our service. We follow all legislation in regard to working with children, and keep up to date with current best practices in the market.

Although Aistear is an early childhood curriculum for children 0-6 years, we have found this document incredibly valuable when planning for development through play and exploring emerging interests. Because of this we use this document along with theories in primary curriculum to help develop our themes.

Our centres are audited by our Regional Manager on a bi-monthly basis. We also carry out an annual ITERS and ECERS audit. These audits look to assess our environments and interactions against world standards. Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.



### Staffing

At Tigers After School Centres we believe that child and adult interactions play a key part in a child's social and emotional development. Children need to be able to build strong attachments to the adults in their lives and as such we ensure a low turn over of staff.

All Tigers staff are fully qualified in childcare and Garda vetted and trained in child protection. A number of our managers hold a degree in early childhood education. This level of education means that curriculum is drawn up with a great understanding of child development theory.

All of our assistants are fully trained or currently training in a relevant childcare qualification (FETAC level 5 or above).

We believe that in order for our staff to develop within a constantly evolving industry, we must invest in training and development. All staff are trained in first aid and child protection. We also encourage and fund staff attendance at any training events delivered by the County Childcare Committees and Early Childhood Ireland.

### Child Paths

We use an online application called Child Paths to allow for more effective communication between our services and parents. Child Paths allows parents to be involved in their child's day by allowing them to access information on their child and, in turn, build up a greater knowledge of their child's interests, skills and capabilities.

Child Paths also reduces the amount of paperwork the childcare staff have to complete, allowing them to focus instead on their interactions with the children, rather than documentation. ([childpaths.ie](http://childpaths.ie)).





“The whole of mankind is one  
and only one; one race, one  
class, one society.”

*Maria Montessori*





# About Tigers Childcare

## Our Audits

The quality of our services and our centre environments are incredibly important to us. We are the only service in Ireland qualified in the ITERS and ECERS environmental rating scales. This internationally recognised rating model allows us to understand the importance of the environments and interactions we provide. (www.ersi.info)

Each service is audited by a Regional Manager on a bi-monthly basis to assure continuous high standards. These internal audits look at TUSLA inspection tool, Dept of Education educational focused inspections, Siolta Standards along with our ITERS and ECERS scale standards.

## Nutrition

We operate a healthy eating policy in each of our services. Our hot food is provided by Moon and Spoon. Moon and Spoon are the market leaders in the provision of wholesome and nutritious food to crèches and child care facilities throughout the country. The menus are designed by their chefs and consultant dietician who create seasonal, nutritionally balanced menus, specially designed for children. (moonandspoon.com)

Our meals are served in a family style. Children are involved in the set up of meals and real cutlery and plates are used. Children are encouraged to serve themselves and childcare professionals sit with children and chat during meals.

## Joining Tigers Childcare

We encourage families to come visit our centres, meet our teams and ask any questions they like. It's the perfect way to showcase our learning environments, talk about the Tigers Childcare way in more detail and reassure you that your child will always be in safe hands with us.

## After School Care Locations

For a full list of locations and contact details visit [www.tigerschildcare.com](http://www.tigerschildcare.com)

## Request a Registration Form

Why not email our head office on: [info@tigerschildcare.com](mailto:info@tigerschildcare.com) and request a registration form. Alternatively you can download one from our website: [www.tigerschildcare.com](http://www.tigerschildcare.com)

## Other Services

### Tigers Early Years Centres

Providing full day care services to children ages 4 months-12 years.

### Tigers Pre-school Care

Providing pre-school services under the ECCE scheme to children aged 3-5 years.





**TIGERS**  
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T: 086 170 3955  
[tigerschildcare.com](http://tigerschildcare.com)