



TIGERS

Childcare

Early Years Centres

“The goal of early childhood education should be to activate the child’s own natural desire to learn.”

Maria Montessori



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



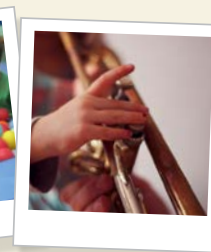
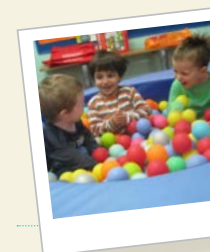
Why Tigers Childcare?

Choosing childcare 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.

With 90% of brain development taking place within the first five years of life, these years shape us into the people we will become. Tigers Childcare uses this knowledge and the teaching of developmental theorists to design a child-lead dynamic programme of learning.

Our families love:

- Our rich environments with state of the art materials
- Our dedicated key staff member for each child
- Our open door policy and dedicated parents room for settling-in time
- Our daily Child Paths application for up to date minute by minute feedback and learning stories live as they happen
- Our child-lead curriculum
- Our nutrition and healthy meal plans
- Our over-staffing of the baby room for care routines
- Our daily buggy walks
- Our dedication to outdoor play



Tigers Childcare 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.



Our Early Years Centres

Our purpose-built Early Years Centres offer flexible full day care for children aged 4 months to 5 years.

We offer after school care for school-age childcare in selected centres, all of which open from 7:30am – 6:30pm Monday through Friday, 50 weeks of the year. Tigers Early Years Centres aim to provide an environment and interactions that will help each child reach their own true potential. Let us show you why we're better than other providers...

Curriculum Model

"For children, play is not just fun; it is how they learn."

Tigers Early Years Centre operates a play-based curriculum model, which sits within the national curriculum framework of Aistear. Our environments are designed into areas of interest where the children can learn and explore. All learning is child-lead and planning comes from staff observations and each child's emerging interests. The curriculum is extremely individualised meaning that every child has the ability to be an individual and to develop at their own pace.

We make learning fun and memorable. Children are encouraged to have opinions and to question and participate. We use hands-on materials for all learning.

Each child is allocated a key worker who is responsible for that child's developmental path. Parents receive daily updates and monthly learning stories on their child's progress and a plan for the path ahead.

Staffing

At Tigers Early Years Centre 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. Our minimum qualification requirement is FETAC level five with many of staff trained to FETAC level 6 and also degree level. Our staff files and references are available for parents viewing.

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.

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 using the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.





Quality Environments

Our childcare rooms are designed into key areas of interest for child-lead exploration. Each room has a small motor area, dramatic play area, block play area, gross motor area, small play area, mess play area, art centre, book corner and quiet/chill out zone. Each area is designed to constantly challenge a child's development and make learning fun.

Our outside play area is also vitally important. We believe that there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing and as such outside time is time-tabled daily. Our outdoor environment allows for a combination of dramatic play, gross motor development, sensory exploration and risk taking.

Research has shown that children like to play in outdoor environments that look as if they built them themselves. Taking this into account, our garden is very different from your stereotypical child's playground. It allows for a child's holistic development. Many open-ended materials have been used to allow the child's imagination shape and change the space.



Parent and Community Involvement

Parents as Partners

We view parents as the primary educators of their children. They know their children best. It is with this view that we treat parents very much as partners in our service.

We look for constant feedback from parents with regard to their experience with their child.

Parents are given daily updates along with monthly learning stories. These stories allow for parents to add their thoughts to their child's storybook.

We hold parent evenings, parent breakfasts and training for parents throughout the year.

Each parent is also invited to a "bring your parent to crèche day" to allow them watch a day in their child's life. This also allows a parent the opportunity to share their own experience and culture with the crèche community.

Child Paths

We use a 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).

Community Involvement

We understand the importance of not just the child's immediate environment but also the community environment in which they live.

Children learn from real experiences and so we invite community representatives into our services to enhance the children's learning. The dentist, the Garda, the doctor, the fireman, the shopkeeper and many more are welcomed to bring real life learning to life.

Primary School Link and Handover

The transition from crèche to primary education can be a challenge for parents and children. We believe that it is our responsibility to help ease this transition. We invite the local principals into our service to familiarise them with our children.

With parents permission we pass over a report card allowing the new teacher to learn about our children – their likes and dislikes and their individual approach to learning.

Coming close to the time of leaving us we practice the practicalities of school life. We introduce the school routine and uniforms from our local schools to our dramatic play corner so that school life becomes more familiar.



“What a child can do today with assistance, she will be able to do by herself tomorrow.”

Lev S. Vygotsky



For children,
play is not
just fun;
it is how
they learn.





Our Pre-school Curriculum

It has long been established that good quality learning experiences in the early years can have a huge impact on a child's future learning.

Early intervention and scaffolding of a child's learning is the key to optimal development during these key years. At Tigers Pre-school we provide children with a top quality educational experience that eases their transition to primary education.

We see children as active learners by allowing them choice and a role in their learning and we strive to develop confident learners.

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 pre-school assistants are fully trained and hold a relevant childcare qualification (FETAC level 5 or above). All of our staff are Garda vetted before starting employment at Tigers Childcare. We employ fully qualified special needs assistants when needed.

We use the principles of Siolta as a quality assurance document in the running of our pre-schools. Each pre-school has weekly quality checks from senior management. These checks are documented and used to maintain a high quality of service across all levels.

Our pre-school curriculum is based around Aistear. Aistear is the national framework for early years education. Our rooms are broken into learning stations. These stations allow children a choice in their learning. Using a key worker system we observe each child's development over time, and individual plans are made to scaffold each child's learning experience.

In a typical Tigers Pre-School classroom you would find the following learning stations:

- **Dramatic play centre**
- **Small play corner**
- **Construction station**
- **Montessori corner**
- **Writing/ Art centre**
- **Puzzles and small motor area**
- **Library and chill out zone**

With the help of an award-winning programme (Project Bubbles) each month has a main theme and each week is broken into a number of learning goals. At the end of each month each child's progress is assessed. Our curriculum changes depending on the children's needs. We are lead in learning by the children in our care.

A day in Tigers Pre-School allows children to experience learning through play. We believe that children of pre-school age learn best through play and hands-on experience. It is in their play that children make sense of the world. Staff follow a timetable to allow for structure during the day. However, the timetable is flexible and allows for the child-centred practice of following a child's emerging interests.

A typical day at tigers will see the children taking part in the following activities:

- Free-play
- Circle time
- Station time
- Arts and crafts
- Drama and movement

The curriculum pays particular attention to areas of language development, pre-reading skills, early maths, language and skills, and social and emotional development.

We foster the belief that parents are the primary educators of their children and thus we have an open door policy in our pre-school. We have a parent school day rota which affords each parent the opportunity to attend school with their child during the year.

We follow all current pre-school regulations and legislation with regard to childcare and child protection. We are members of the Early Childcare Ireland and have a close working relationship with County Childcare Committees and Barnardos. These services offer our staff support in best practice and training throughout the year. Tigers Pre-schools are inspected annually by the Tusla. To date our inspection outcomes have been of an extremely high standard. We are compliant on all fronts.



Our unique environments

Discoverer's Room

Children from the age of 1-2 are constantly discovering the world around them. Development is taking place rapidly on a daily basis. The Discoverer's Room is designed to meet the needs of a child at this stage of development. We understand that all children are developing at different paces and so our practitioners are on hand to observe each child's progress and track their future learning path. The room is split into a number of areas:

Dramatic Play

Children are starting to explore the world around them. They are starting to act out what they see in the real world and so our dramatic play area allows for children to explore real life experience. From the home corner to dolls, animals and real life foods our Discoverers love to play with the materials.

Messy Play

Children of this age are exploring many things with their senses. It is important that they have the opportunity to touch and feel many different textures. Our messy play allows them to explore their senses with touch and feel in a safe environment.

Block Play

This area allows for an introduction into the use of building materials. Children learn about stacking, order and balance.

Book Area

Books are introduced at an early stage. This allows our Discoverers to explore literacy and language development.

Small Play Area

Children can explore the worlds around them and are introduced to different people, animals and objects from the environment in which they live.

Small Motor Area

Through age appropriate puzzles, games and tools the children start to develop the fine motor skills they will need for future development.

Treasure Baskets and Heuristic Play

These open ended play experiences provide infants with opportunities to personally select, discover and handle objects in order to construct their own understanding.



Let's Discover!

Gross Motor Steps

The steps allow our children to explore crawling and walking up and down a stepped area. The cross lateral development of using this piece of equipment is important to a children future development.

Quiet Area

This is a soft play area for quiet play and chill out time. It is important that children have a quiet space protected from noisy play.

Sleep Room

Our Discoverers have their own sleep area. This area is supervised at all times by an adult and is a relaxing area for rest and sleep.



Explorer's Room

Our Explorers (age 2-3) are becoming experts in the world around them. They need challenges to build on the skills already learned and push them further in their individual development. They need to be able to challenge themselves within a safe environment and with support realise that they are active players in the world around them. The room is split into a number of areas in order to stimulate the children's development:

Dramatic Play

Children at this age are starting to develop language skills at a rapid rate. The dramatic play area allows children to use these language skills and test them within a safe environment. It also allows a child to work out real life scenarios and problem solve through play. Our dramatic play area changes throughout the year in order to allow our Explorers use their imagination in play.

Messy Play & Art Area

Sensory exploration and artistic play take place here. All materials are at a child's level and the children are welcome to use the area as they wish at any time of the day.

Block Play

This area has an array of building and construction materials. Skills developed in this area are the basis for early maths. Children are encouraged to create, design, and problem solve through the use of building materials.

Book Area & Quiet Space

The book area is filled with an abundance of reading materials to fill our Explorers with the love of reading and literacy. Through the use of stories we hope to build on language development. The quiet area is a protected space for children to rest or play alone.

Small Play Area

The small play area uses small replicas of the world around us. This area is used for play, sorting and classification. This is all important to your child's development.

Small Motor Area

Materials are provided to build on the child's fine motor skills. These materials include puzzles, games, and manipulation apparatus.

Gross Motor Steps

Challenges our Explorers to further build upon their movement and motor skills. Climbing and stepping are still a key part of learning although over and under, pulling and crawling movements are introduced.

The Explorers space and also the curriculum offered daily allows each child to reach their full potential. Planning is displayed weekly so that parents are aware of their child's learning path.



Active Cubs Room

Our Active Cubs (age 3–6) operates as our pre-school classroom. We offer both sessional (ECCE year) and full time places in two creative environments. The emphasis of our learning is that children are given the building blocks to become active in their learning. This allows for school readiness and gives the children empowerment in their future learning. All key learning and new concepts are delivered within a circle time. Delivery of information and learning within a group opens up the floor for collaborative discussion. It allows our Active Cubs to ask questions and to problem solve with the guidance of their practitioners. It allows for the Active Cubs to push their development by asking “what if” questions and to innovate while developing. Our play space is divided into key areas of interest for the children to explore – see across.



Dramatic Play

This area constantly evolves and changes to allow children explore the outside environment within a safe space. It will change from home, to shop, from school to restaurant. Children love to explore, act out and problem solve in this space.

Messy Play & Art Area

Like our Explorer Room, sensory exploration and artistic play take place here. All materials are at a child's level and the children are welcome to use the area as they wish at any time of the day.

Block and Construction Area

The Active Cubs are now experts in the area of construction. In our Active Cubs Room we challenge our learners through the introduction of new materials and our favourite large blocks for further fun.

Book Area & Quiet Space

An abundance of books allows us to explore social and emotional issues as well as to travel to far-flung places in our imaginations. This space allows for group stories as well as asking as a quiet space for children who wish to relax.

Small Play Area

Allows our cubs to play with the real and fictional world. Whether it's the farm, the garage or the dinosaur world our children's imagination comes to life in this area.

Fine Motor Area

Our little hands get ready for future development through handwriting, lace tying and bottle opening and pouring. It is in this space that we develop through fun activities. Puzzles, games, manipulation and practice helps to pave the way. We also explore the use of montessori equipment.

Gross Motor Steps

Our important fine motor skills depend on our gross motor skills being developed and strong. Our program has a focus on outdoor play, inside movement breaks and active play. There is a constant focus on making sure that each child has strong building blocks for core body movement and so active play is part of the daily timetable.

Music and Sound

Our room has an area for music play. This allows a child to explore and be creative. Whether listening or creating there is lots of fun to be had.



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 and Dental Care

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. www.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.

Dental care and habits are very important to us. Each child is taught healthy dental habits. Each child has a toothbrush and from the Discoverers to Active Cubs brush their teeth after every meal.

Outdoor Play and Physical Activity

At Tigers Childcare we are dedicated to every child having outdoor play and activity on a daily basis. We are of the attitude that there is no such thing as bad weather just bad clothing. All children under 12 months are taken for a daily buggy walk.

Children over 12 months play in our outdoor areas at least twice a day. It is important that all our children are physically active, not just from a health point of view but also for their important motor development.

Parents can purchase good outside clothing at www.rainbusters.ie

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.

Early Years Locations

For a full list of locations and contact details visit www.tigerschildcare.com

Request a Registration Form

Why not email our head office on: info@tigerschildcare.com and request a registration form. Alternatively you can download one from our website: www.tigerschildcare.com.

Other Services

Tigers Pre-school

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



Tigers After School Care

Providing after school childcare to children aged 4-12 years on school premises.



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