



# TIGERS

Childcare

Pre-school Centres

**“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best that they can possibly be”.**

Rita Pierson



## 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 Pre-school?

Choosing a pre-school 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 Pre-School 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
- Our daily Child Paths application for up-to-date minute-by-minute feedback and learning stories live, as they happen
- Our rich, child-lead curriculum
- Our Parents As Partners programme
- Our dedication to learning, training and self-reflection



Tigers Pre-school 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 Pre-school

At Tigers Pre-school we provide children with a top quality educational experience that eases their transition into primary education.

We see children as active learners by allowing them the choice and a role in their learning and we strive to develop confident learners. We operate sessional pre-school services for 38 weeks of the year under the ECCE Scheme. Our pre-school operates within a number of school settings and we also operate sessional pre-school classes in all of our purpose built locations. At Tigers Pre-school we aim to provide an environment and interactions that will help each child reach their own true potential.

## Curriculum Model

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.

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. Although we have a base line curriculum we our lead in our learning by the children in our care. Their Ideas, Interests, and development guides our curriculum plan.



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 (3 hour session) 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 regulations and legislation with regard to childcare and child protection. We are members of 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 Tusla to date our inspection outcomes have been of an extremely high standard. We are compliant on all fronts.

## Staffing

At Tigers Pre-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 pre-school assistants are fully trained and hold a relevant childcare qualification ( FETAC level 5 or above).

We employ fully qualified special needs assistants when needed. 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. 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 classrooms 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.



## 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 school 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 pre-school 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.

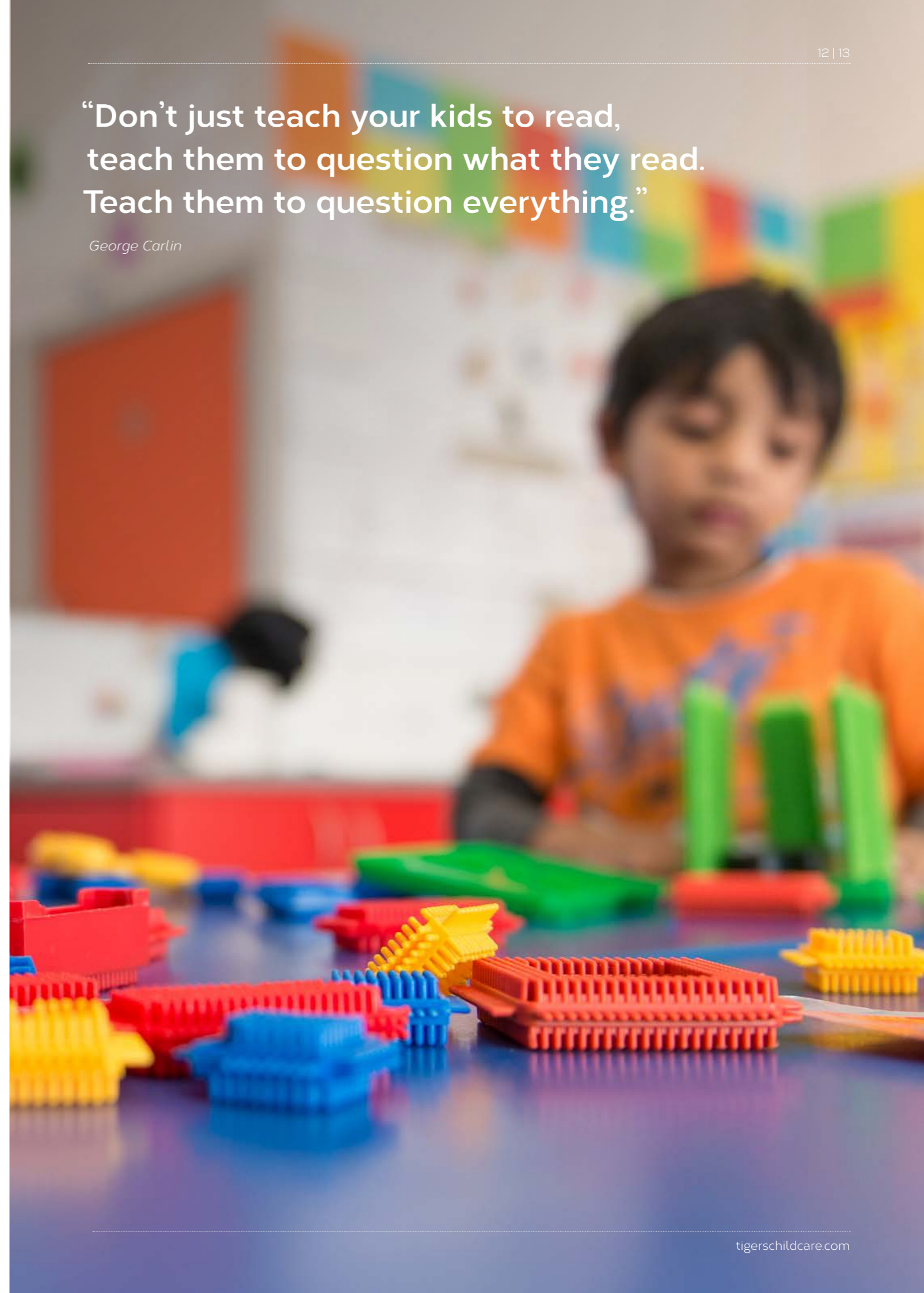
With parents permission we pass over a report card allowing the new teacher to learn about our children – their likes and dislikes and their individual approach to learning.

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.



“Don’t just teach your kids to read,  
teach them to question what they read.  
Teach them to question everything.”

*George Carlin*



# Our Pre-school environment

## Pre-school Rooms

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 children to ask questions and to problem solve with the guidance of their practitioners. It allows for the children 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.

### 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 and Art Station

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 children are now experts in the area of construction. We challenge our learners through the introduction of new materials and our favourite large blocks for further fun.

### 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 Skills 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.

### Book and 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.

“Tell me and I forget,  
teach me and I may remember,  
involve me and I learn.”

Benjamin Franklin



### 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.

### Gross Motor Skills

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.

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.”

*George Bernard Shaw*



# 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](http://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. Children supply their own snacks from home. These must be healthy and we have a sugar ban in place within our services.

Dental hygiene is also important. We organize a annual Dentist visit and teach our children about the importance of brushing their teeth, and healthy eating

## 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.

## Eligability for the Free ECCE Programme

The ECCE was introduced in January 2010. The scheme was designed to give children access to a free pre-school year of appropriate program-based activities in the year before they start primary school. Participation in a pre-school program provides children with their first formal experience of early learning, the starting-point of their educational and social development outside the home. Children who avail of pre-school are more likely to be ready for school and a formal learning and social environment.

### Is my child eligible for the ECCE scheme?

From September 2016, children are eligible for the ECCE scheme if they are aged over 3 years and not older than 5 and a half years. To check if your child is eligible visit [www.dcy.gov.ie](http://www.dcy.gov.ie).

Please note that places in Tigers Pre-school are strictly limited and given on a first come, first served basis. Please download our information pack and application form for more information.

Tigers Pre-school opens during school term only. Tigers Pre-school does not open for public, school or bank holidays. Tigers Pre-school is closed for the months of July and August.

## Pre-school 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 After School Care

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



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