

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC455
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Name of Service:	Ups A Daisy Montessori
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Address of Service:	Crosshaven Rugby Club, Myrtleville Cross, Crosshaven, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	P43 W322
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Name of Registered Provider:	Miriam Spillane
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	28/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	No.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Administration Office, St. Mary's Health Campus, Gurranabraher, Cork. T23X440.
Inspection undertaken by:	D Cotter
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).

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Description of service

Ups A Daisy Montessori is a sessional early years service that is registered to provide care and education to children aged two to six years. This includes children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, which is facilitated from 8.30am to 12.00pm, each Monday to Friday, over 38 weeks of the year. The service is situated in a rural area of Crosshaven. It operates from Crosshaven Rugby Cub, which consists of a detached, single storey building. There is one operational care room, with adjacent sanitary facilities and the children also have the use of an enclosed outdoor play area, beside the building.

Staffing

There are five adults attached to this service including the registered provider who all work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, three adults were on the premises.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 -

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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, 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*

(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*
- (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.*

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(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 registered provider has ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The person in charge as well as the deputy person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection. The roster for the service demonstrated that at least one of these people were always on site.

2.

There were five staff attached to the service and five staff files were assessed.

(a) Six of the ten references were available from a past employer and had been validated.

(b) Four of the ten references were available and validated from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all for staff. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for one member of staff who had resided outside of the state for a period of longer than six months.

4.

All five staff members held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

On the day of inspection, the following policies were examined:

- Healthy eating policy.

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The above policy was observed to contain the relevant details to meet regulatory compliance.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

1.

The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of staff working directly with the children.

3.

On the morning of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations. There were three adults available in the care room to work directly with the 15 children in attendance aged between 3 and 5 years.

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:

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- On the day of inspection, the staff working with the children were sensitive and responsive in their approach of and care of the children.
- Children had access to water at all times throughout the inspection.
- Children's toileting needs were attended to promptly and staff assisted children when necessary.
- Staff were observed to encourage independence. For example, staff were observed to encourage children to dress themselves into their outdoor clothing and to wash their own hands.
- It was evident through observation on the day of inspection that children's voices were listened to, and children were able to communicate their needs to attentive adults. For example, it was observed that children were free to choose which ever activity they wanted and staff sat with children and supported them in their play.
- Staff followed the interests of the children and evidence of this was visible in the service. It was evident on the day that the children were greatly interested in Bees. There were pictures of bees the children had drawn along with handmade posters detailing the life cycle of bees.
- Children were observed to eat healthy and nutritious food for their mid-morning snack; this was in line with the services healthy eating policy.
- The room was well laid out to encourage the children to move freely between the interest areas.
- Children were observed to play in the outdoor area on the morning of inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

1. (a) The registered provider has ensured that there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and outdoors. It was observed on the day of inspection that the care room hosts a wide range of play

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equipment with ample numbers of resources available to children. The equipment was contained at child height making it accessible to all children.

There were clearly defined areas of play including, mark making, construction, Montessori tabletop activities, library and a home corner. The outdoor areas were observed to be accessible to children on the day of inspection. There was a wide variety of equipment available to the children for use in the outdoor environment. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to take a bike ride around the premises and also to play with sand, water and construction toys in the outdoors.

(b) The care room was equipped with a rest area. The rest area was located in a corner of the room, apart from the main area, and had comfortable soft furnishings, should any child need a rest during the day.

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 main entrance had been secured, and this ensured no unauthorised entry to, or exit from, the service.
- All play equipment appeared to be in a clean state and of good repair.
- Heavy equipment and furniture had been anchored to prevent them falling onto a child.
- All electrical cables or flexes were in good repair and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning materials were stored out of reach of children.
- The outdoor area had been securely fenced to prevent unauthorised entry to or from the area.
- The children's bags and coats were stored safely off the floor.

Infection Control:

- Regular handwashing by the children was carried out before eating and after using the toilet and messy play.
- All wash hand basins were provided with thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels. The water temperatures were recorded between 29°C and 39.5°C during the inspection.
- There were detailed cleaning records available for the inspector to review.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in operation throughout the service.

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- Windows had been opened to aid natural ventilation.
- Tables were sanitized before the children had their lunch.
- Perishable food for the children's lunch was refrigerated.

Administration of Medication:

- A supply of fever reducing medication was stored safely by the service.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were kept free and unobstructed.
- Wall tethered fire extinguishers were available in the care room.

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 An attendance book was available for the children in attendance in the service and indicated each preschool child was checked in and out on a daily basis by a staff member.

3.

(a) The registered provider has ensured that no unauthorised entry to the premises is possible by ensuring that any person is met at the door by a staff member. This was observed in practice on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

3. (b) There was no written record of visitors to the service. The inspector was not asked to sign in or out of the service and through discussion with the registered provider, it was evident that no record is kept. This poses a risk of unauthorised access to children.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In her written response, the registered provider detailed a sign book which they had created for the use of the service and stated that it would be in use going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the new visitors book was submitted.

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 24 (3) (b) has been adequately addressed.

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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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.
 - (a) The registered provider has kept a written log of monthly fire drills. Through inspection of records it was observed that fire drills take place monthly with the last recorded fire drill taking place in March 2026.
 - (b) The registered provider has kept a written log of all firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. It was observed that all firefighting equipment has been serviced and maintained. The fire alarm system was last tested in August 2025, and the fire extinguishers were last tested in September 2025.
2.
 - (c) The registered provider has ensured that all records relating to fire safety are stored safely and are open to inspection by authorised persons.

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4.The procedure to be followed in the event of a fire is displayed prominently within the main care room.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the service was insured, with insurance for 18 children valid until 27 March 2027. The records detailed the category of service covered, the name and address of the premises and details regarding public liability cover, fire, theft, buildings, and outings cover.