

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:	26/10/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork
Inspection undertaken by:	D Prendergast
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).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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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

The service employs three adults, all of whom work directly with the children who attend. This includes the registered provider and a relief staff member. Each of the three adults holds a relevant award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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 unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of the 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-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, manager 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.*

(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 was the designated person in charge at the early years service and a deputy person in charge had been assigned to deputise, in the event of her absence.
 - (b) The registered provider was present for the duration of the inspection.
- (2) Recruitment records for each of the three adults who worked at the setting were reviewed.
- (a) Of the six required written and validated references, five had been obtained from past employers.
 - (b) There was one reference on file from a source other than a previous employer, with evidence of validation also provided.
 - (c) Garda vetting from the National Vetting Bureau was available for the three adults.
 - (d) None of the three adults had resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period greater than six consecutive months and therefore police vetting was not required.
- (4) The relevant certification was available to demonstrate that the three adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education.

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) A sufficient number of staff were working with the children, who attended the service.
- (3) A sessional category service was provided for the children, who at the time of inspection, were aged three to four and a half years. The correct adult to child ratio was maintained; there were 2 adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of 15 children.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

- (1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*
- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
 - (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
 - (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
 - (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
 - (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
 - (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
 - (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
 - (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
 - (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

(1) It was established that a total of 17 children were enrolled at the service. A sample of 10 children's registration forms were assessed and included the requirements listed from (a) through to (i).

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:

- The children were facilitated to have a meal break at 10.20am. This part of the daily routine was conducted at a relaxed pace. The children chatted freely with one another and the adults were available to provide assistance with opening food packaging and containers.
- The inspector was advised that children could retrieve their reusable water bottles from the fridge throughout the morning, should they require additional fluids. It was also noted that a supply of bottled water was available for any child who may not have brought a drink with them.
- The children could easily access and utilise the adjoining sanitary facility as needed and were offered helpful reminders from adults, in relation to handwashing practice. A second children's sanitary facility was located further down the corridor.
- The adults were observed to demonstrate kindness and patience towards the children and competently led activities. For example, children's efforts and interests were acknowledged. In addition, staff members regularly communicated with the children in relation to upcoming activities, which supported them to prepare for and manage transitions.
- Soft vinyl sofas and books were available to support the children to rest and relax, should they choose to opt out of scheduled activities.
- Appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear were worn by the children, as they engaged in outdoor play and exploration.

Programme of activities:

- During the sessional service, there was a balance between adult directed activities, such as demonstrating correct handwashing practice and leading circle time and child-initiated pursuits, which included both indoor and outdoor free play.
- A language rich environment was evident at the setting. For example, singing was observed as part of circle time, one of the adults read a story to the children and conversation and curiosity were encouraged throughout the morning.
- At the time of inspection, the children explored the theme of Halloween, through pumpkin carving, storytelling and discussion.
- There was an emphasis on supporting children to develop self-care skills and independence. For example, children were encouraged to put on their outdoor clothing before going outside and to tidy up after snack time.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The care room was furnished with suitably sized tables and chairs, which supported the children's participation during play, mealtimes and structured activities.
- The available materials were stored and accessible at the children's eye level. For example, resources such as jigsaws, connectable shapes and a range of Montessori equipment were displayed on low set shelving. Two furnished doll's houses were also available, along with a play kitchen, dolls and an art and craft trolley.
- The outdoor play environment was located at the side of the premises and consisted of a concrete surface underfoot. It was equipped to facilitate active and creative play; a selection of ride on toys were available, as well as a water tray, sand tray, buggies and large waffle shapes.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The service’s Healthy Eating policy was suitable for the sessional category service in operation.
- The children’s parents or guardians provided nutritious snacks for their mid-morning meal. Examples on the day of inspection included buttered crackers, sandwiches, rice cakes, yogurts, carrot sticks and fruit such as oranges, apples and chopped grapes, with water to drink.
- The registered provider advised that none of the children had any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

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:

- Upon the inspector’s arrival, the main entrance door to the service was found to be secure from the exterior, which reduced the risk of unauthorised persons gaining access.
- Outdoors, the designated play space was enclosed by high-level fencing and two secured gates.
- There were no trailing cables or flexes within the children’s reach.
- Fire extinguishers were securely wall mounted
- Cleaning agents and the first aid box were stored on high shelving, which was inaccessible to the children.
- There were no blinds cords in place.

Infection Control:

- The children’s wash hand basins were adequately equipped to support hygienic handwashing and drying; there was warm running water, liquid soap and either disposable paper towels or an electric hand dryer available.
- Handwashing was ensured before the children ate their snacks.

- A storage unit was in use to store the children's coats and a separate lidded container was provided to maintain the children's wellies.
- A refrigerator was available for the children's perishable snacks.
- The care room was adequately ventilated through open windows.

Administration of Medication:

- During the inspection, medication was not observed to be administered to any of the children present. The inspector was also informed that none of the children were in receipt of medication.

Safe Sleep:

- None of the children were noted to sleep while in attendance.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were noted to be free from obstruction.

Outings:

- The inspector was advised that outings from the service were occasionally undertaken and a suitable Outings policy had been devised.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The risk of a child exiting the service while unsupervised was not prevented. The main exit door from the care room was secured with a thumb turn lock, which could be easily opened by children and while a door sensor alarm had been fitted to said door, the alarm was not functioning correctly. As the door led to a car park and road, this posed a risk of injury to a child.

Infection Control:

2. Warm running water was unavailable at the wash hand basin in the staff sanitary facility. A temperature reading of 12.4°C was taken. Cold water temperatures may impede effective handwashing.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The alarm on the door was fitted with batteries. Staff will ensure that this alarm is fitted with batteries at all times.

Infection Control:

2. In the response submitted, the registered provider outlined that during discussion with the Rugby Club committee, it was established that the warm water supply to the wash hand basin in the adult toilet facility is connected to the heating in the bar, which was not turned on. The committee have provided assurances that this will not happen in future. Staff will ensure that there is hot water available at this wash hand basin at all times.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Video evidence to demonstrate that the door sensor alarm is now sounding when the door is opened.

Infection Control:

2. The statement from the registered provider is accepted as evidence.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 25 - First aid

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- (1) One of the adults who worked at the service had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training and the relevant certificate was on file.