

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE035		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Daisychains Montessori Pre-school		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Main Street, O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare		
<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 TF8N		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Diane Smyth		
<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/11/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM N/A
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Quality and Regulation Directorate Tusla Child and Family Agency Ennis Primary Care Centre Station Road Ennis County Clare V95TY4E		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A.McCarthy		
<b>Title:</b>	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

Not applicable

## Description of service

Daisychains Montessori Pre-School was established in 2015, on the main street, of O'Brien's Bridge, County Clare. The service operates from a modified two storey building in an open plan room on the ground floor and an enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of service. The sessional service operates Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:30. Care is provided to children ranging in age from two to six years.

## Staffing

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 the registered provider and a staff member were present. The adults working directly with the children held a level 6 and a level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

## 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 child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report. 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, the member of 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.

(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 person in charge and a person was available to deputise in their absence.

(b)

The registered provider was available throughout the inspection.

(2)

Two employee files were available and reviewed by the inspector. The findings included the following:

(a)

Two validated past employer references were available.

- (b)  
Two references from a source other than a past employer were available.
- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the two adults employed by the service.
- (d)  
International police vetting was not required as the two adults had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months.
- (4)  
The adults working directly with the children held a level 6 and a level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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)  
On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children attending the service.
- (3)  
The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratio was maintained at all times. Two adults supervised the ten children present.

### 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.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)  
The service-maintained records for the eleven children enrolled in the service. The records included the required particulars outlined from (a) to (i).

(3)  
The children's registration forms were open to inspection in the service.

(4)

The registered provider confirmed that the records referred to in paragraph (1) are retained for a period of two years after the children cease to attend the service.

### 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 of Children:

The inspector observed the children's learning, development, and well-being to be supported by the staff. The staff demonstrated respect and warmth towards the children in their care using soft and gentle tones of voice. During observed interactions, the staff demonstrated a good knowledge of the children's individual interests, needs and learning preferences. The staff members interacted warmly with the children, listened carefully to their stories and questions, responded to them with interest and provided regular praise and encouragement throughout the session.

The children were supported to be independent, according to their age and stage of development which included using the toilet, caring for their belongings, and retrieving their lunches from their bags. Free-play activities predominated for the duration of the inspection and the children had access to plenty of free space. The children were free to select which activities they chose to engage with. The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their meal in a relaxed and unhurried environment during their rolling lunch breaks.

### Physical and Material Environment:

The indoor environment featured a range of developmentally appropriate toys, equipment and play materials suitable for the age range and number of children in attendance. Resources were easily accessible, and the children demonstrated familiarity with navigating their environment to independently access the toys, equipment and materials they chose to play with. Appropriate furnishings of low-level tables and chairs were available to facilitate mealtimes and tabletop activities. The defined interest areas included: two pretend play kitchens, a large dolls house, a fire station, an art station, a rest area with soft furnishings, a library area with a large range of reading materials, a large tent, low level shelving with a variety of Montessori, musical instruments and constructive play materials.

The outdoor area was accessible directly from the rear of the service. The perimeter was secured with a fence. The play area was adequately equipped with children’s seating, pretend playhouses, a sensory table, a climbing frame, rocking toys, tricycles, a slide, and ride on cars.

## 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 entrance to the service was appropriately secured to protect the children within from leaving unsupervised and to ensure unauthorised persons are unable to gain access to the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The children’s arrival and departure times were recorded on the service’s sign in book.

#### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in clean condition.
- The children’s hands were washed at appropriate intervals.
- Warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and pedal operated bins were available in the sanitary facilities. Child friendly illustrated posters were available above the wash hand basins to prompt children to wash their hands.

## Administration of Medication:

- The registered provider stated that medication is not routinely administered by the service.

## Outing:

- The registered provider confirmed that the service undertakes outings. An outings policy was available to inform practice.

## 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.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

## Compliance Information

(1)

A member of staff had a record of up to date First Aid Response training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped and accessible first aid box was stored in one room in the service.

(b)

A first aid box was readily available for use by the adults in the event of an emergency.

### 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (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)

Records were available to demonstrate that monthly fire drills were undertaken in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023.

(4)

A fire action notice demonstrated the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Up to date records were not available for the number, type and maintenance for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

(1)(b)

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced. The recommended maintenance procedures will be followed. A copy of the maintenance service records was submitted to the inspectorate.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

- A copy of the smoke alarm system maintenance record.
- A copy of the firefighting equipment maintenance record.

#### Summary Comment

Based on the corrective and preventive actions and documentary evidence submitted by the registered provider to the inspectorate, the regulatory requirement is met.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Up to date insurance cover was available for twenty-two children attending the sessional service. The policy is valid until the 27th of March 2024.