

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CE035
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Daisychains Montessori Pre-school
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Main Street, O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 TF8N
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Diane Smyth
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	25/11/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	7	PM	N/A
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<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### 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. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of service. The sessional service operates Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 12:30 for children ranging in age from two to six years.

### Staffing

Two adults are employed by the service. On the 25 November 2025 the registered provider worked alongside a second adult. An adult is available to provide relief cover when required. The adults working directly with the children held appropriate qualifications 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 focused on an examination of compliance under regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment (1)(a)(b), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) and (4)

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels (1) (3)

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child (1)(a)

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 - First aid (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures (1)(a)(b)(4)

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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 and the deputy were available during the inspection.

(2)

Three files were available in respect of the registered provider, the adult working in the service and the relief cover person. The findings included the following:

(a)

Four written and validated references were obtained in respect of the adults working in the service.

- (b)  
Two written and validated references were obtained from a source other than a past employer in respect of adults employed by the service.
- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the three adults currently working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)  
International police vetting was not required in respect of the adults working in the service as the adults had not lived in another state for a period longer than six months as an adult.
- (4)  
The adults working directly with the children held Early Childhood Care and Education qualifications ranging from Level 5 to Level 7 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)  
During the inspection, an adequate number of adults worked directly with the children in attendance.
- (3)  
On the 25 November 2025, the ratio of adults caring for children was maintained. Two adults cared for the seven children attending the sessional 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the service through the provision of appropriate activities, interactions, materials, and equipment having regard to the age and developmental stage of the children.

#### Basic Needs of Children:

The programme of care was facilitated in an open plan room. The adults interacted with the children in a caring manner. The adults listened attentively and conversed with the children at their level and responded promptly to their cues for assistance. Positive behavioural strategies were used during interactions. The adults demonstrated an awareness of the children's personal interests and rotated in accordance with the children's preference.

The children were encouraged to be independent while caring for their belongings, their play materials and equipment, at mealtime and whilst using the toilet. The children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their age and level of development. The children engaged in dancing exercises transitioned to open ended play-based activities that included pretend, sensory, constructive and creative activities. Parents/Guardians provided the children lunches. The children sat together and conversed amicably during mealtimes. Mealtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable occasion.

### 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 and exit to and from the service was secured to monitor the safe entry and exit of the children to and from the childcare facility.
- The children's arrival and departure times were recorded in a record book, and the children were supervised at all times during the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored in a secured area out of reach of the children.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was maintained in a clean condition.
- The two sanitary facilities were equipped with warm running water, liquid soap, hand paper towels and lined, lidded pedal operated bins.
- The children washed their hands at regular intervals during the inspection.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given to a child during the inspection. The registered provider stated that medication is not routinely administered by the service.

##### Fire Safety:

- A fire drill record was available demonstrating that monthly fire drills were completed.
- The fire exits and routes were clear from obstruction throughout the service.

##### Outing:

- The registered provider stated that outings are not undertaken by the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. The outdoor play area was unsafe for use by the children. The surrounding perimeter of the outdoor play area was secured with three rows of barbed wire steel fencing with sharp edged points at intervals. This posed a safety risk in the event that a child should access the barbed wired fencing.
2. Metal fencing in the surrounding perimeter of the play area was falling over and unstable. This posed a risk of falling on a child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. The barbed wire has been removed, and a concrete wall has been built.
2. The fencing has been removed, and a concrete wall has been built.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

Photograph of the new concrete wall in the outdoor play area.

#### Summary Comment

Based on the actions and supporting evidence provided by the registered provider the non-compliance has been resolved. The implemented actions will be reviewed on next inspection.

### 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)

An adult working directly with the children held a record of up to date First Aid Responder (FAR) training.

(2)(a)

A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the care room.

(b)

The first aid box was available in the service 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 fire fighting 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)

A record of completed monthly fire drills was available. The most recent fire drill took place on the 24 October 2025.

(b)

Up-to-date records of the number, type and maintenance service were available for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system. The most recent service of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system maintenance service took place respectively in January and September 2025.

(4)

Fire action notices demonstrating the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed at both entry/exit points in the building.

### 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 up to twenty-two children attending the service. The policy is valid until 27 March 2026.