

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015DR053 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Puddleducks Creche & Montessori |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | Springvale Hall, Ticknock Hill, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | D18 X0Y0 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Sheila Neill |
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|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Full Day, Part Time |
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| <b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b> | 13/02/2025 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 57 | PM | 56 |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|

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| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | The Early Years Inspectorate-Tusla Child and family Agency,<br>Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin,<br>A96P3Y6. |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspectors  |

### 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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| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------------|

### Description of service

This private childcare facility was established in 2005 by the current registered provider. Full day care is provided for children aged 0-6 years of age. Care is also provided for school-aged children. The service operates from a purpose built crèche facility on the ground floor of an apartment complex in Sandyford county Dublin. There are four rooms on the ground floor, the Chicks, Waddler, Little Ducks and Big Ducks rooms and one room on the first floor, namely the Montessori room. A separate sleep room and sanitary accommodation is provided together with an outdoor area which is located at the rear of the building.

### Staffing

In total fifteen staff are employed in the service including a cook. On the 13 February 2025 fourteen staff worked directly with the children. The registered provider was present but does not work directly with the children.

### 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

The inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations

Regulation 9 (1) (a), (b) (2) (a)-(d) & (4) – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (2)– Staffing Levels

Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health Welfare and Development of Child

### Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

The scope of the inspection included the following rooms Chicks, Little Ducks, Big Ducks and Waddler room and did not include the Montessori room.

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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, 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,*

*(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), (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider it was confirmed that one adult commenced working in the service since the last inspection on the 23 May 2024. Documentation was reviewed in respect of this adult and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Two written validated references were available from a past employer.

(c) A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána was available for the adult. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed in the service.

(d) Not applicable the adult employed had not lived outside the state for a period longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that the staff member who was employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification.

## 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.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were fifty-seven children attending the service being supervised by fourteen adults.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

### 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-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) (b) The registered provider ensured that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place. Children were provided with food and snacks at regular intervals. Chilli con carne and rice was served for the main meal. Mealtime was relaxed and observed to be a positive social experience for children. In the chick's room babies were placed in highchairs for their meal and staff were observed to be seated at their level engaging in conversation and assisting them as required. They provided children with bibs to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Older children sat together for their meal. Additional portions of food were available and offered to children as requested. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating.

Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. Older children were encouraged and supported to be independent including using the toilet independently and cleaning up after their play. Staff were familiar with the children and demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children throughout the inspection.

In the Chicks room babies were placed to sleep when they were tired and older children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. Suitable low-level beds were provided. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing. The environments were calm and conducive to sleep, with staff sitting with the children and soothing them as needed during this time.

The staff used a phone app to communicate with parents in relation to the individual children's care. This included information relating to diet, sleep, and nappy-changes. Staff reported they also communicate daily with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service.

## 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 door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents and medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities and the kitchen were inaccessible to children.
- Fire exits were unobstructed.

##### Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and cleaning schedules were maintained.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of waste.
- A suitable system was in place to sterilise soothers.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children and stored in their individual cubbies. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly or as required.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Written parental consent was available should medication be required to be administered to a child. A system was in place to record medication and staff members were familiar with required safe practice when administering medication in the service. A sample of medication records were reviewed and completed as required.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. Discussion with staff demonstrated that staff were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the Big Ducks room a child was wearing an amber bead necklace. Amber bead teething jewellery is prohibited for use in early years services for children due to a risk of choking.

#### Infection Control:

2. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure as follows;
  - (a) A staff member changed a child's nappy and proceeded to dress the child without removing the soiled gloves. The staff member was observed to use hand sanitizer instead of washing her hands after changing the child's nappy.
  - (b) In the Waddler room some children's hands were not washed following nappy changing.
3. In the Chicks room children's hands were not washed before dinner. Two communal cloths were shared among the children posing a potential infection control risk.
4. In the Waddler room children's hands were not washed prior to dinner.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. Child wearing amber beads necklace: beads were removed and parents informed that they are not permitted to be worn in a pre-school setting. Parents have been advised to follow creche protocols as outlined in the Policies & Procedures handbook and staff have been advised that they are authorised to remove beads in the event that they are worn.

#### Infection Control:

2.
  - (a) Staff have been advised again on our procedures for nappy changing. Staff members have also been told that they must not use hand sanitiser for nappy changing.
  - (b) Staff in all relevant rooms have been reminded about procedures for washing children's hands after nappy changing. Managerial team have been observing nappy changing procedures in the relevant rooms and this will continue to ensure good practice is being maintained at all times.

3., 4. In the Chicks and Waddler Rooms, staff have been reminded to follow the procedures for washing children's hands prior to mealtimes including the use of individual facecloths for each child. Sufficient Facecloths are available and staff have been told they must be used at all times. Managerial team have been observing hand washing procedures in the relevant rooms and this will continue to ensure good practice is being maintained at all times.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

#### **General Safety:**

Written records.

#### **Infection Control:**

Written records.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliance. Practice will be reviewed on next inspection.

## **Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements**

### **Regulation 29 - Premises**

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*

### **Compliance Information**

(c) The Little Ducks and Chicks rooms were adequately ventilated. There was no evidence of damp patches and mould spores on the ceilings and walls.