

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR084
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Name of Service:	Daisychain Montessori & Childcare
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Address of Service:	15 The Rectory, Stepside, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 HH64
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lucy Madigan , Gemma Rave
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/09/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	25
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Floor 7, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty and R Brien
Title:	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).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable
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Description of service

Daisychain Montessori is registered to provide full day, part-time and sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years and is one of four services run by the registered providers. The service operates from four rooms in a purposely adapted building. There are two rooms on the ground floor and two rooms on the first floor. A separate sleep room and sanitary accommodation is provided together with an outdoor area which is located at the rear of the building. The service opens from 7:30am to 6:30pm Monday to Friday. A morning session is provided from 9am to 12pm for 38 weeks of the year.

Staffing

On the day of inspection there were six staff members working directly with the children. The manager and deputy together with an additional staff member were available to help out as required. One of the registered providers arrived subsequent to the inspector's arrival.

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 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 25 and 26. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation (16)(1),(h),(i),(j) and (k) ...As a result, the scope of the inspection included a sample of records from the care rooms.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the 20th September 2023 in respect of Regulation 23, Safety.

A referral letter was sent to the Fire Officer in Dublin City Council in respect of Regulation 23, Safety.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider, person in charge and staff who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

This regulation was assessed in relation to all staff who were employed in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Of the twenty references required seventeen written and references were available from a past employer. A further three written and validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.

(d) International Police vetting was available for four staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(4) Records were available detailing the required qualifications or equivalent for all staff members.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service. On the day of inspection, there were 29 children present in the service being supervised by ten adults.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(h) Records were available detailing the attendance of children on a daily basis. These included the time the children arrived at the service and the time they left.

(i) A staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.

(j) Written records of administration of medication to preschool children were available in the service. A sample reviewed on the day of inspection documented signed parental consent.

(k) Written records of accidents and incidents which occurred in the service were available on the day of inspection.

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

The inspectors observed the children's learning, development and well-being being supported by the staff and the indoor and outdoor environments. The children spent periods outdoors despite the wet weather where they had access to a covered space with artificial grass, benches and sand play. There was equipment available to support full-body-movement and imaginative play. The children were dressed appropriately in wet suits to protect them from the rain.

Children's rooms were bright with lots of natural light. Family photographs and children's artwork was displayed. A variety of equipment and materials were visible and accessible to the children on low, open shelves. Equipment included Montessori materials, art and craft materials, puzzles and books. The rooms had space for free movement and floor play.

The children engaged in a sessional curriculum in the morning in the Montessori room which included Montessori work and free play. Children attending all rooms had brought all of their snacks from home and the service provided a hot meal which was provided by an external catering company and regenerated on site. Drinks of water were always available within the rooms and milk was provided with the main meal of the day. The children sat together when eating, engaging in conversation with each other and the staff.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. Staff reminded them to wash their hands at appropriate times and to put on their coats before going outside. Bibs were provided for younger children when eating. The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Low level hooks were provided for coats and bags. The inspectors observed the children using the toilet as they needed. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during mealtimes.

Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting the children in their work and play. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed.

Children were happily engaged enjoying the daily routine in the pre-school rooms cared for by staff who were familiar with each child and their personalities. Activities enjoyed by children included singing songs, story time,

arts and crafts and free play. Children were observed to enjoy free play supported by staff. Young children were observed exploring their environment at their own pace.

Staff were observed to be positive towards children evidenced by individual names used, eye contact and praise for children on completion of activities. Staff encouraged and supported children in their chosen activities. Calm tones of voice were used, and assistance was provided whenever was needed. Staff used distraction methods and offered alternatives to encourage sharing and turn taking. Children were given opportunities to promote self-esteem and self-confidence.

Staff communicated with parents at drop off and collection where important information relating to the child's day were communicated.

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:

- Emergency doors were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of an emergency.
- Blind cords were secured out of reach of children.
- Heavy furniture was secured to prevent tipping.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- Cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children

Infection Control:

- Children's hands were washed at appropriate times to prevent the spread of infection.
- The Pre-school rooms and sanitary facilities were observed to be in a clean condition.
- Children's nappies were changed in a manner that reduced the risk of cross infection.
- Sanitary facilities were equipped with liquid soap and paper towels for handwashing.
- Pedal operated, lidded bins were available for the safe disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored appropriately in the original packaging out of reach of children.
- Parent/guardian consent had been obtained for medications which had been given to children attending the service.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were placed to sleep in appropriate facilities including standard cots according to their age and stage of development.
- Inspectors observed staff checking sleeping children at 10-minute intervals and maintaining a record of the checks.
- The temperature of the rooms was maintained between 16-20^oc when children were sleeping to prevent overheating.
- Appropriate bedding was used to prevent overheating

Fire Safety:

- Regular fire drills took place in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. External entrances and exits were not secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child leaving the service unsupervised. An entrance / exit door leading from the baby room was open on the day of inspection which allowed unauthorised access or exit to and from the service.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued to the registered provider on the 20th September 2023.

Infection Control:

2. A bin in the downstairs nappy changing room was open posing a risk of cross infection should the contents be touched.

Fire Safety:

3. There were 5 children sleeping in cots in an upstairs care room which could pose a risk to the timely evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

A referral to the Fire Officer was made following the inspection.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The door was locked immediately. Visual sign on the door that the door must remain locked at all times. Evacuation procedure form the room has been amended. Daily checks by the health and safety officer and Manager to ensure that the door remains locked.

Infection Control:

2. A new bin was ordered that is completely non touch. The other pedal for refuse is a pedal bin. Daily health and safety checks on toilet and changing areas on bins as part of our Infection control health and safety checklist.

Fire Safety:

3. The upstairs room is no longer being used for sleeping children. All under two children sleep in the cot room and baby room downstairs.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Photographic evidence of signage, risk assessment and health and safety audit documents.

Infection Control:

Photograph of new bin in place together with health and safety checklist.

Fire Safety:

Photographic evidence of children's cots in situ in a downstairs room.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions together with supporting documentation were reviewed by the inspector and are deemed to meet the requirements of 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.

(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 person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times.

(2)

(a) The first aid box was suitably equipped and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The first aid box was available for use at all times.

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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 18th August 2023.

(b) The maintenance of the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 12th September 2023 and the fire fighting equipment was last serviced on the 19th July 2023.