

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR102
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Name of Service:	The Magic Roundabout
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Address of Service:	2 Eden Road Upper, Glasthule, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A96 X226
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Thompson
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	21/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	64	PM	64
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Early O'Brien & H. Bourke.
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).

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Description of service

The Magic Roundabout is registered to provide full day care and is privately operated. The service is registered to cater for children aged zero to six years and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:00 to 18:30. The service is situated in a large detached two storey house in an urban area of Glasthule, South County Dublin. There are five care rooms available for the pre-school children. These are the Baby and Wobbler room, Preschool room, downstairs Montessori, and upstairs Montessori. Care in the Toddler room was provided in a separate prefabricated building to the rear of the premises. An outdoor play area is also available on the premises.

Staffing

The service employs 17 staff members including the centre manager, deputy manager and chef. On the day of inspection 13 staff were working directly with the children and there were two students on placement. The designated person in charge was office based and not included in the adult: child ratio. The registered provider does not work in the service.

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, safety and records. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

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Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(2)(3)(4) - Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 (1)(2)(8) - Staffing levels

Regulation 16 (1)(h)(i)(j)(k) - Record in relation to pre-school service

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

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 25 – First Aid

Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures

Regulation 28 – Insurance

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16(1) - Record in relation to pre-school service across each of the five care rooms of the Baby and Wobbler room, Toddler room, Preschool Room, Downstairs Montessori and Upstairs Montessori.

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 person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.

(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 service manager is the designated person in charge of the service and there is a named person appointed to deputise as required.

(b) The service manager was present and in charge of the service throughout the inspection.

(2)

Upon review of the staff roster and staff files, it was identified that there were seven new staff members employed to work in the service since the last inspection on 22 May 2025 and two students present on placement. All staff files were reviewed in relation to regulation 9(2)(c).

Documentation was reviewed in respect of nine adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a) Of the 18 validated, written references that were required, 11 were available from a past employer.

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- (b) Of the 18 validated, written references that were required, 7 were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were on file and had been obtained for 17 staff members and 2 students present on placement, demonstrating that the registered provider has adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all staff.
- (d) Police vetting was required and available for five staff members who had lived outside of the State for a period of more than six months as an adult.
- (4)
- Records were available demonstrating that all seven adults employed since the last inspection held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above 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.*
- (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 during the inspection.

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(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to during the inspection. On the day of inspection there were 64 children attending the service being supervised by 13 adults on the morning and afternoon of inspection.

8(a)

There was a minimum of two adults on the premises during the inspection. This was confirmed on review of the staff roster

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

- (1)
- (h) Children's attendance was recorded on an online application on the day of inspection. These records included details of each child's arrival and departure times from the service.
- (i) A record of the staff roster was available and was reflective of the staff present on the day.
- (k) A sample of 23 accident and incident records were reviewed on an online application and all were completed as required by the regulation.

Non-Compliance Information

- (j) A sample of seven administration of medication records were reviewed on an online application and were non-compliant on the day of inspection as follows:
- One record had not been signed by a parent and did not detail the child's symptoms as required by the administration of medication record form.
 - One record had not been signed by the child's parent.

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- One record had not been completed by staff following administration of medication. This record had not been signed by the child's parent.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All staff have been briefed on the importance of completing medical forms in full. Parents have been contacted and asked to notify a member of management if their child is on medication and they have been reminded of their role in completing medical forms. All staff members have been asked to sign a memo about the importance of receiving parent's signatures, as well as seeking managements presence when administering medication. These signed forms have been placed on each individual staff members file.

To prevent a reoccurrence of this non-compliance, medical forms have been updated to include management as the second signatory needed on file when administering medication. Staff will call on a member of the management team to oversee the administration of all medication given to children onsite. This allows management an overview of all medical forms completed onsite.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic and documentary evidence of information shared with parents and staff. A revised copy of the administration of medication record form.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the next inspection.

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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)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place. In their interactions with the children, the adults were respectful and actively listened to the ideas, opinions and needs of each child. All adults were familiar with the names, ages and family members of each child. They reported on the likes and interests of the children within the care rooms, and these interests were reflected in the resources and materials available to the children. It was evident from room displays that children's emerging interests were responded to and incorporated within the curriculum, such as Artemis 2, planting sunflower seeds and germinated apple seeds, the journey of which they had been following over the last number of days. The routine of the day was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play during the inspection.

Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered regularly. Self-feeding was promoted in younger care rooms and staff assisted children where required. The staff supported the children in managing their personal care. Children's nappies were changed routinely and as needed. Staff used opportunities when providing personal care for warm one-to-one interactions. Staff addressed children by name and spoke to them in gentle positive tones. Children were comforted promptly if they became upset.

An area with matting and cushions was provided within the care rooms downstairs with a large couch, cushions matting in the upstairs care room, where the children could rest or take a break from activities.

Younger children were provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time with an appropriate number of cots and floor beds available. Staff reported that children could be accommodated to sleep outside this time if they displayed signs of tiredness. The children were made comfortable for sleep, with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing and providing soothers and comforters to those who used them. The environments were calm and conducive to sleep, with staff sitting with the children and soothing them as needed. Staff reported they communicate daily with parents regarding individual children's care, including information about diet, activities, sleep, and nappy changes.

The children were observed to go outside for a period of time in the morning and afternoon of inspection and were dressed appropriately for the weather.

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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 into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The person in charge had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards.
- Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.
- Medication, which is only administered in an emergency, was stored safely and out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing in adjoining sanitary accommodation for all care rooms. Good hand-washing practices were observed after toileting, before eating and before and after nappy changing for staff and children..
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers and mouthed toys.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children.
- Cleaning schedules were available in all care rooms and the service appeared clean

Administration of Medication:

- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications.
- Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required.

Fire Safety:

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- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

Safe Sleep:

- On the day of inspection, the sleep records for four children under the age of eighteen months had not been documented correctly. This practice poses a risk to the safety of children.

In the Baby and Wobbler Room, while it is acknowledged that sleep checks were carried out, upon review of the children's sleep charts, the documented sleep checks were completed at times the adults did not carry these out.

- Four children's sleep checks were recorded by both adults working directly with the children in the care room. These were documented to have occurred for two children at 13:05 and two children at 13:10 but at this time one adult who signed these was supervising children in the main care room and the other adult who signed these was carrying out a nappy change.
- These sleep checks did not occur until 13:15 with the last sleep checks carried out at 13:00 when the inspector arrived at the care room.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Safe Sleep:

Staff have been reminded of the importance of safe sleep and documenting information accurately. Staff members in the Baby room have been asked to complete an online training course to refresh their knowledge on safe sleep, and the importance of accurate documentation. Sleep check forms for the Baby room have been edited to allow for the physical inclusion of time details by hand.

To prevent any reoccurrence of non-compliance in the future, management will carry out spot checks on sleep record sheets to ensure information is documented accurately.

Supporting documentation submitted

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Safe Sleep:

Documentary evidence of staff training certification on safe sleep in addition to a revised copy of the services safe sleep record form.

Summary Comment

The inspectorate has deemed that the actions submitted adequately address the non-compliance and will inform the 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)

A person trained in first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two staff members held current FAR certification.

(2)(a)(b)

A suitably equipped first aid box for children was available and safely stored in each of the care rooms.

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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)

There was evidence of regular fire drills having taken place within the service. The last fire drill took place on 19 March 2026.

(b)

There was a maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and smoke detection system in the premises dated April 2026 and January 2026 respectively.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire, displayed within the care rooms and the main hallway of the service

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance which expires on 27 March 2027 for a full day care service which covers a maximum of 67 children.