

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR102		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Magic Roundabout		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	2 Eden Road Upper, Glasthule, Co. Dublin		
<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 X226		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Emma Thompson		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/05/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	56	PM 55
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill and Sarah Quigley		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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		

### 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 0-6 years and operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 08:00 –18:00. The service is situated in a large detached two storey house in an urban area of Glasthule South County Dublin. There are six care rooms available for the pre-school children named the Baby room (12 months-18 months), Wobbler room (16 months -18 months), Pre-school room (2-3 years), downstairs Montessori (3.5-5years), and upstairs Montessori (3-5years). The Toddler room (2-3years) was provided in a separate prefabricated building to the rear of the premises. An outdoor play area was provided on the premises

### Staffing

The service currently employs eighteen staff members. On the day of inspection thirteen staff were working directly with the children. Two staff were employed to cook the main meal. The designated person in charge was office based and not included 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection plan was to assess compliance under the following regulations:

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

Regulation 11(1) Staffing levels

Regulation 15 (1) (a)-(i) Record of a Pre-school child

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

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 (1)(a), (b) and regulation 15 (1)(a)-(i) . As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Baby, Wobbler, Pre-School, Toddler and downstairs Montessori 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.

## 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.

### 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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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.
- (2) The files of eighteen staff were reviewed as part of the inspection. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a)(b) Of the thirty-six written validated references that were required, twenty-four were available from a past employer and twelve were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the eighteen staff members. However, the service did not adhere 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. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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

(4) Records were available evidencing that fourteen staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. Four staff were not working directly with the children and did not require a childcare qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (d) Police vetting was not available for two staff who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.
- (3) All procedures outlined specified in paragraph (2) were not completed prior to staff being appointed.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (d) Police vetting which was not in place for two adults on the day of inspection is actively being sought. This information will be forwarded on to inspector on completion. All relevant information in relation to this process thus far has been forwarded to the inspector already.
- (3) This is now being rectified and information will be forwarded to inspector as received. All procedures outlined in paragraph 2 are now sought and completed prior to staff commencing employment.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

## Summary Comment

The inspector is satisfied that the regulatory requirement will be met when police vetting is received.

## 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-six children attending the service being supervised by thirteen adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times and the staff roster confirmed there are at least two adults present at all times.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) A sample of records were reviewed for fifteen children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which each child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record of immunisations received by the child.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

### 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*

*(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)(a), (b)

The inspectors observed appropriate and suitable care practices within the service. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating. At lunchtime a hot meal of bacon and lentil hotpot was served with crusty bread. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and assistance was given as required. Mealtime was relaxed and sociable children and staff sat together. In the Pre-school room one child who did not want to eat the dinner was offered an alternative option.

The staff supported the children to manage their personal care. They provided the children with bibs to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Staff were observed cleaning children's noses as required and children's faces and hands were washed after dinner. 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 demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children throughout the inspection with the use of distraction, gentle tones and praise.

Staff reported a computer application is used to communicate with parents/guardians in relation to the individual children's care. This included information relating to activities, diet, sleep, and nappy-changes. Staff confirmed they also communicate daily with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service.

Each of the care rooms were laid out to meet the developmental needs of the children. Low level shelving was provided so toys and equipment were easily accessible to children. An area was provided with matting and cushions within the rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities. The children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner.

All children had an opportunity for physical activity outdoors at a designated time. The Outdoor area was secured safely with a high wall. It consisted of an artificial grass surface. A selection of equipment was available including a playhouse, slide, balancing board, climbing frame and tyres. Bench style seating was provided for children to rest.

### 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 were inaccessible to children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.

##### Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.
- Individual bed linen was provided for the children in the Baby, Wobbler, Toddler and Pre-School rooms. Staff stated that bed linen was laundered weekly. Individual containers were used to store children's linen.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of mouthed toys.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.

##### Administration of Medication:

- A sample of medication records were reviewed the forms were completed correctly.

### 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.
- Room temperatures were maintained at the required temperature for sleep.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed.
- The fire evacuation procedure was clearly displayed.

### Outing:

- The service had an outings policy.
- Children from the Montessori rooms went on a 'bug hunt' outing. The risk assessment was completed prior to the outing.

## Non-Compliance Information

### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting disclosures available for six staff members were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

### Infection Control:

2. In the baby sanitary the nappy changing mat was torn and could not be cleaned effectively. This non-compliance was noted on the last inspection on the 19 July 2023.
3. In the downstairs Montessori the pedal function on the bin was broken posing a potential infection control risk.
4. In the outdoor play area the bin provided was unsuitable as it was lidded rather than pedal operated.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

### General Safety:

1. Since the inspection all six staff members have reapplied for vetting through the nation Garda Vetting Bureau and five of the six applications have been forwarded to the inspector. The final document will be forwarded in the coming days. Management will review staff vetting annually and update where required.

**Infection Control:**

2. The changing mat present in the baby change area was replaced on the day of inspection and staff were again reminded of the importance of changing mats when damaged. Support evidence of this change was forwarded to the inspector. Staff have been reminded to please notify management if items require replacement.
3. The bin in the Downstairs Montessori has now been replaced.
4. The bin in the garden area has now been replaced with a more suitable pedal operated alternative.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Copies of updated Garda Vetting for six staff.

**Infection Control:**

3.,4. Photographic evidence.

**Summary Comment**

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted under Regulation 23 General Safety and Infection Control. The Regulatory requirement has been met.