

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR131
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Magical Days
-------------------------	--------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	118 Upper Glenageary Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	A96 R205
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aoife Hale
-------------------------------------	------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time
----------------------	---------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	29/01/2025
<b>Date of Regulatory Enforcement Meeting:</b>	05/03/2025

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	38	PM	27
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Brien & E. Mulhern
<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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Magical Days is a privately owned, part-time and full day care service which provides care to children aged 0 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 07:45 to 18:30, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a purposely adapted semi-detached two storey premises in a residential, urban area in Glenageary, County Dublin. There are four care rooms in the service. Three care rooms were open on the day of inspection. The Baby room is located on the first floor and caters for children aged 1. The Toddler, Pre-Montessori and Montessori rooms are located on the ground floor. The Toddler room caters for children aged 1 to 2 years and the Montessori room caters for children aged 3 to 4 years. The Pre-Montessori room was closed on the day of inspection. The service has a designated cot room on the first floor adjacent to the Baby room. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and has employed 12 staff members. There were seven staff working directly with the children on the inspector's arrival not including the person in charge. The person in charge worked directly with the children when covering staff breaks and lunches. An additional staff member arrived at 12:30 to cover staff lunches.

The registered provider arrived after the inspection commenced and remained on the premises for the inspection and closing meeting.

### 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/information and records/safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

- 9 (1)(a)(b)(c),(2)(a)(b)(c)(d),(4),(7)(a)(c) – Management and recruitment,
- 11 (1),(2),(8)(a) – Staffing levels,
- 16 (1)(k) – Record in relation to pre-school service,
- 21 – Equipment and materials,
- 23 – Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child.

However, on inspection additional non-compliance was identified under the following regulations:

- 8 (1)(3) – Notification of change in circumstances,
- 20 (1)(b) – Facilities for rest and play,
- 25 (1) – First aid,
- 29(d) – Premises.

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.

### Additional Information

This inspection was carried out as a follow up to a previous inspection which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Significant levels of repeat non-compliance were identified during this inspection relating to regulations 9(7)(a) and (c), 16(1)(k), 21, 23, 25(1) and 29(c) and (d) where practices observed were not in line with service policies and procedures and regulatory requirements.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the last inspection on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 under Regulation 23 General safety as a number of toys and play equipment found in the Baby, Toddler and Pre-Montessori rooms were unsuitable and unsafe for children under 3 years of age.

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on the day of inspection for non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 General safety. A number of toys and play equipment found in the Toddler room were unsuitable and unsafe for children under 3 years of age as detailed under Regulation 23. These toys and play equipment were removed from the room on the day of the inspection. The registered provider submitted a response on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The response is outlined under regulation 23 – General Safety - Corrective Actions and Preventive Actions. The actions outlined, if implemented, should address the risk.

This service was referred to the National Registration Enforcement Panel on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in relation to unresolved areas of recurring and outstanding non-compliance within the early years' childcare facility. A regulatory enforcement meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 was facilitated by the national manager for escalation and enforcement and the national inspection manager with the registered provider. The meeting was convened to discuss the repeated non compliances found on inspections.

### 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 II - Registration and Register

#### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

*(3) Where a registered provider has been unable for good and proper reason to notify the Agency within the time specified in paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, of a change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2), the registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing of the change as soon as possible thereafter.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(3)

The registered provider advised the inspectors that the person named on the register of early years services as the person in charge is no longer employed in the service. A new person in charge was identified on inspection who was not notified to Tusla as required under this regulation.

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

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

A change in circumstances was completed and accepted by the inspectorate. A Change in Circumstances will be completed and the next most senior member of staff appointed as interim Person in Charge should the current PIC leave employment. This will prevent a gap occurring in the future.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.

### 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
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.

(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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
- (c) these Regulations.

## 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.
- (c)
- There was evidence of a clear management structure. Staff demonstrated through discussion with the inspectors that they were aware of the management structure in the service.
- (2)
- Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that four adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:
- (a)(b)
- Of the eight validated, written references that were required, five were available from a past employer and three were available from a reputable source.
- (c)
- Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d)
- Police vetting was required for three staff members and was available for these staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.
- (4)
- Records were available evidencing that the four staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

(7)(a)(c)

Discussion with staff and review of documentation demonstrated that one to one supervision had taken place for staff members in line with the service policy on staff supervision. The registered provider adequately detailed the requirements for staff supervision as set out in the service policy.

### Non-Compliance Information

(7)(a)(c)

The registered provider did not demonstrate that they had taken all reasonable measures to ensure that all employees were provided with appropriate information and training to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with the regulations.

It was not evident that management and staff had received appropriate training regarding the suitability of play equipment. Records of daily risk assessments and weekly audits on play equipment were available, however inspectors observed a significant number of unsuitable and unsafe items of play equipment in the Toddler and Montessori rooms and in the outdoor area. Further information regarding this is outlined under Regulation 21 and 23.

The registered provider has not demonstrated effective governance measures as significant levels of repeat non-compliance were found during the inspection relating to regulations 9(7)(a) and (c), 21, 23, 25(1) and 29(c) and (d). Practices observed were not in line with service policies and procedures and regulatory requirements. Non-compliance relating to regulation 9(7) was found on previous inspections dated 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. It was observed that several corrective and preventive actions submitted previously by the registered provider to address non-compliances had not been effective.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

We recognize that the registered provider holds full responsibility for governance and is now taking a more hands-on role in both the overall management of the setting and in supporting the new manager. Our new manager has been in the position since mid-January and brings extensive experience. The manager has demonstrated strong leadership and is effectively overseeing staff supervision, policy implementation, and regulatory compliance. Moving forward, we will assess all introduced policies weekly using a structured template provided by an outside agency. This includes rigorous testing of key policies, such as cleaning procedures, to ensure full compliance and effectiveness.

The manager will take part in weekly Supervision meeting with the registered provided, all will be recorded and kept on her staff file. The registered provider will test that all subjects noted in the Supervision meetings are being adhered to and implemented.

A bi – weekly safety inspection will take place of all areas of the service to ensure that no inappropriate toys / equipment are in the care rooms. The new manager will have a robust probation, with regular probation meetings to ensure that she can meet the expectations of the inspectorate and the service.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### **Summary Comment**

Regulation 9(7) has been found to be non-compliant when assessed on the three previous inspections of this service. As previous corrective and preventive actions did not sustain compliance following these inspections, the Inspectorate is not adequately assured that the actions as stated by the registered provider will achieve regulatory compliance.

## 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 38 children attending the service being supervised by 9 adults on the day of inspection.

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

## 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:

(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service

### Non-Compliance Information

(k)  
The registered provider did not ensure that all accident and incident records were appropriately recorded. A total of 29 accident and incident records were completed by the service since the previous inspection. Four forms did not detail all required information. One form had not been signed by the manager and three forms had not been signed by parents which could affect the continuity of care to a child. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The corrective and preventive actions that had been submitted by the registered provider on the previous inspection had not been effective in preventing the non-compliance from recurring.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

All accident reports have been signed. All accident reports are now sent to the registered provider for a quality check and to ensure all areas are completed appropriately. This has also been included in the managers induction.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

The registered provider did not ensure that suitable bed linen was available for each child. On the day of inspection, a light sleeping bag with a zip was observed in use as a cot sheet in the designated cot room used by the Baby room. A child, aged one year, was observed sleeping in this cot. A second sleeping bag with a zip was observed in the hamper used to store cot sheets. Staff stated that the service does not have enough cot sheets for the number of children in attendance. This is contrary to the service safe sleep policy which states that “an adequate supply of bed linen should be in place to ensure each child has their own linen.”

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

To address any concerns and ensure full compliance, we purchased 12 new cot sheets and these sheets are now readily available in our cot sheet box for staff use.

As part of the monthly checks completed by the manager, the bed linen store will be checked to ensure that enough suitable bed linen is available for the children.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

#### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

## Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The play equipment and materials in use in the Baby room were observed to be adequate and suitable for the age of the children attending on the day of inspection.

#### Non-Compliance Information

In the Toddler and Montessori rooms, several toys and items of play equipment were damaged or missing crucial pieces. These included broken toys, significantly torn books and puzzles/jigsaws that could not be completed due to missing pieces. Neglecting to maintain and replace play equipment could lead to frustration or disengagement with activities and affect the children’s overall learning. This regulation was non-compliant on the previous inspection dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following that inspection had not been effective in addressing non-compliance.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Any items missing pieces or torn have been removed from the care room and placed in a skip. A monthly safety audit will be completed by the manager to include risk assessment of the toy boxes.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

#### Summary Comment

The registered provider stated in the first CAPA response that a bi-weekly safety inspection will be completed by the manager to include risk assessment of the toy boxes. The registered provider was given a further opportunity to submit evidence, including the bi-weekly audit document, through a second CAPA. In the second CAPA response the registered provider stated that monthly safety audits will be completed rather than bi-weekly audits. As previous corrective and preventive actions did not sustain compliance following the last inspection, the Inspectorate is not adequately assured that monthly safety audits as stated by the registered provider will achieve regulatory compliance.

### 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 were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All blind cords were secured.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

The registered provider did not take reasonable measures to ensure play equipment was safe and appropriate to the age of children attending. Inspectors observed several items of unsafe equipment in the Toddler and Montessori rooms as follows:

1. Nineteen toys and two dress-up costumes that were unsuitable for children under three years of age were available to the children in the Toddler room. The items contained small parts and posed a risk of choking. Four children present were aged one year, and 11 children were aged two years.
2. A wooden play kitchen in the Toddler room and a wooden toy highchair in the Montessori room were broken with splinters exposed. These posed a risk of injury to the children who might accidentally encounter the sharp edges.
3. The saddle on one of the tricycles in the outdoor area was torn with foam exposed posing a risk of choking. The same tricycle had been observed in the outdoor area on the last inspection. The registered provider had reported in the corrective and preventive action following that inspection that it had been removed, and the children no longer had access to it.

This regulation was non-compliant on inspections dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 as toys containing small parts were available to children aged under three

years, posing a risk of choking. The registered provider submitted corrective and preventive actions following that inspection which had not been effective in addressing the risk.

Another Immediate Action Notice was issued on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The registered provider submitted a response which is outlined under Corrective and Preventive Actions below. The actions, if implemented, should address the risk.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. & 2. On 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 the registered provider responded to the Immediate Action Notice reporting that the following actions had been taken;

1. All items that did not meet the age-appropriateness criteria have been removed and discarded.
  2. A poster outlining prohibited play items was sent to all staff via an internal app.
  3. A new 'No Toys from Home' policy has been introduced which will ensure only toys purchased by the registered provider will be on the premises.
  4. Four staff including the registered provider completed a course titled 'Conducting Risk Assessments' with an external company on 30 January 2025.
  5. The weekly toy audit has been amended to become a daily audit. The person in charge is now responsible for overseeing and signing off on the audit daily.
  6. A monthly safety audit has been introduced. The registered provider has committed to conducting a thorough review of the findings, including an in-depth assessment of the age appropriateness of each toy.
2. The play kitchen has been removed.
  3. The tricycle has been removed.

The risk assessments will continue to be completed, alongside an added measure of a bi-weekly safety room and outdoor inspection by the Manager. Children are no longer permitted to bring in toys from home.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Documents submitted included screenshots of communications with staff, evidence of external training in conducting risk assessments and audit templates.

No evidence of a bi-weekly audit submitted.

### Summary Comment

Regulation 23 has been found to be non-compliant when assessed on the last two inspections of this service. As previous corrective and preventive actions did not sustain compliance, the Inspectorate is not adequately assured that the actions as stated by the registered provider will achieve regulatory compliance.

### 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.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

While it is acknowledged that two staff present on the day of inspection were trained in paediatric first aid, the registered provider confirmed that no person was trained in First Aid Responder (FAR). This practice was non-compliant on previous inspections dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

After our previous FAR-trained staff member left, due to staffing constraints and the need to maintain staff-to-child ratios, it was not possible to send another staff member for training in December or January. The first available opportunity to send another staff member for FAR training was in February, when adequate staffing was secured. Staff member successfully completed the FAR course on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March. Her certificate is pending, and email confirmation of completion has been submitted as evidence.

To prevent a recurrence, we are now implementing a two-staff FAR certification policy. A second staff member will be sent for FAR training to ensure we always have at least two FAR-qualified staff on our roster. This measure guarantees that if one FAR-certified staff member leaves, we have a second staff member ready to step in immediately.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the 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*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### Compliance Information

(c)  
There was evidence of damp in the Pre-Montessori room on the previous inspection. The registered provider submitted a corrective action following that inspection stating the black mould residue had been cleaned and treated, the flaking paint had been removed, and the area had been repainted. On inspection, it was not evident that this work had been done as damp was observed on part of the wall causing the paint to flake off and a black residue was visible on the ceiling. However, it was acknowledged that the room was not in use on the day of inspection.

(d)  
The registered provider had completed repair and maintenance works identified on the last inspection as follows;

- The walls in the Baby room had been repainted.
- The upper section of the walls in the Montessori room had been repainted.
- In the Toddler room, the holes in the wall on a large chalkboard had been repaired.
- In the Toddler room, a section of beading under the chalkboard had been repaired.
- The wooden step to the Montessori room in the outdoor area had been repaired.

### Non-Compliance Information

(d)  
The registered provider did not ensure the service was cleaned, maintained and repaired as required. Inspectors observed the following on inspection:

1. There was no evidence available to demonstrate that the cleaning schedule had been completed in the Toddler room on the day of inspection. Cleaning schedules were completed on the day of inspection in the Montessori and Baby rooms, however areas of all care rooms required cleaning.

There was evidence of a build-up of dust and debris in the corners of flooring, on skirting boards, on the shelving for play equipment, in boxes for play equipment, on play equipment and mats. Inadequate cleaning in an early years setting can increase the risk of infections and illness in children.

2. The cleaning checklist for the sanitary area adjacent to the Montessori room had been completed for the day of inspection and included cubicle walls and floors. However, a number of areas required cleaning and maintenance and were observed to pose a risk of cross contamination or infection as follows;
  - a. The wall of the toilet cubicle and the frame of the door beside the cubicle were observed to be soiled with dried brown matter.
  - b. A build-up of grime was observed around the base of the two toilets and in the corners of the floor under the two sinks.
  - c. The laminate layers of the cubicle divider were water damaged on both sides and the laminate had broken away in places exposing an unfinished wooden surface. These surfaces could not be cleaned effectively.
  - d. The metal pole at the back of the cubicle divider was observed to be rusty and water damaged, creating a rough surface which could not be cleaned effectively.
3. In the nappy changing area used by the Toddler room, a build-up of dust and debris was observed on the nappy changing unit and under the nappy changing mat, posing a risk of harbouring bacteria.
4. In the Baby room dust and debris were observed at the base of the ball pool posing an increased risk of infections.
5. In the Montessori room, a section of beading at the skirting board was broken and coming away from the wall beside the door to the outdoor area and a section of beading at the skirting board was damaged beside the door to the sanitary area. These surfaces could not be cleaned effectively and could harbour bacteria.
6. In the Montessori room the beading on the base of the mirror was damaged. The surface could not be cleaned effectively and could harbour bacteria.

7. In the Toddler and Montessori rooms, paint was chipped off the walls and skirting boards in areas causing plaster and wood to be exposed. These surfaces could not be cleaned effectively and could harbour bacteria.
8. In the Toddler room, a stairgate which was in place at the door into the room was observed to have sticky tape on the handle as the handle was damaged. This surface could not be cleaned effectively, posing a risk of cross contamination. The risk assessment completed on the day of inspection included 'stairgates in use and in working order'.
9. Numerous sections of the wooden panelling in the outdoor area were broken with wood splinters exposed in areas. These posed a risk of injury to the children who might accidentally encounter the sharp edges. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider has not been completed.
10. A loose floor board was observed in the Montessori room creating an uneven surface which could pose a risk of tripping and injury.

This regulation was non-compliant on the previous inspections dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following those inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

##### Staff Training & Cleaning Procedures

All staff will be retrained on the importance of cleaning, and the cleaning schedule is now strictly maintained.

Staff meeting scheduled for Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 from 7p.m-8:30p.m

We have implemented a three-tiered approach to ensure compliance:

1. Policies are in place for cleaning and hygiene.
2. Staff follow these policies, with daily supervision by management and the registered provider.
3. Policies are tested weekly through inspections conducted by management and the registered provider.

In response to the non-compliances identified:

1. Staff Training & Cleaning Procedures

- All staff will be retrained on the importance of cleaning, and the cleaning schedule is now strictly maintained. Staff meeting scheduled on-line from 7 p.m-8:30 p.m for Thursday, March 13th 2025.
- A template provided by an outside agency is used to verify that cleaning tasks are completed correctly and that rooms remain clean and tidy as per the cleaning schedule.

2. Daily Supervision of Checklists

- The person in charge and the registered provider oversee daily cleaning checklists to ensure they are completed thoroughly and correctly rather than just marked as done.

3. Infection Control – Changing Unit Cleaning

- Staff have been retrained on properly cleaning the changing unit, mat, and the area beneath the mat to maintain the highest infection control standards.

4. Ball Pool Removal

- Debris and dust in the ball pool were previously noted during inspections.
- Following best practices for infection control, the ball pool has been permanently removed and disposed of (evidence provided via a photo of the skip).
- New equipment has been purchased to replace the ball pool, ensuring there are sufficient play resources.
- All new materials underwent the new toy audit policy to ensure age appropriateness and were purchased from reputable suppliers.

To enhance and maintain cleaning standards at the crèche, we have implemented the following measures:

- Industrial Deep Cleaning - We engaged a professional industrial cleaning company, to perform a thorough deep clean of all touchpoints. This cleaning was carried out on Wednesday, 6th March, and Monday, 10th March. Cleaning company has been rebooked for another deep clean in six months. Should a deep clean be required sooner, we will instruct them immediately to ensure the highest hygiene standards.

- **New Dedicated Saturday Cleaner** - We have employed a highly experienced and well-recommended cleaner to work every Saturday for five hours. The cleaner will follow a structured cleaning schedule that has been provided via email. Evidence of the cleaner's employment and cleaning schedule is included in our records.
- **Monitoring & Quality Control** - Cleaning checks will be conducted every Monday before opening to ensure the cleaning schedule has been fully completed. We will test and evaluate the effectiveness of this new cleaning arrangement regularly.
- **Improved Cleaning Structure** - Previously, a cleaner worked 1.5 to 2 hours per evening, four nights per week. We found that this short window of cleaning time was insufficient for a thorough clean. The new approach of a single five-hour block on Saturdays allows for a more effective and productive deep clean.

### 5. Skirting Boards & Beading

- All skirting boards in the baby room, Toddler room, and Montessori room have been repainted.
- New beading has been installed in the Toddler room and Montessori room and is now fully completed.

### 6. Beading & Mirror Area

The current mirror has not been replaced yet, but it has been ordered. It hasn't been removed until the replacement comes because it is set in concrete, and if we were to remove it now, the concrete wall would be exposed, which would be a safety concern. Will be delivered on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April.

### 7. Wall Painting & Protection in High-Traffic Areas

- A high-use wall area in the toddler room has been repainted.
- To prevent future chipping, a clear plastic Perspex cover has been installed, allowing for easy cleaning and maintenance.

### 8. Stair Gate Replacement

- A new stair gate has been installed.

### 9. Outdoor Panel Replacement

- The outdoor wooden panelling has been completely replaced in the areas where there was damage.

- Delays occurred due to uncontrollable factors, including severe weather conditions.
- The red weather warning on the scheduled work weekend impacted completion, but the work has now been finalized.

### 10. Flooring in the Montessori Room

- There has been a delay as the lino was damaged when delivered and had to be returned and replaced the floor will be completed on the 29th March 2025.

A maintenance checklist is being monitored by the manager who will feedback to the registered provider to ensure that any maintenance areas are addressed in a timely manner.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

1. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
2. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
3. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
4. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
5. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
6. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
7. No supporting documentation submitted.
8. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
9. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.
10. Photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.