

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS043
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Mrs Giggles
-------------------------	-------------

Address of Service:	Rear of 29 Boot Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D22 CX83
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Ingrid McDonnell
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	09/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	25	PM	25
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	J. Mayock & S. Quigley
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

Description of service

This private childcare service was acquired by the current registered provider in December 2021. The service operates from an adapted unit in a residential area of Dublin southwest. The unit consists of two pre-school rooms, a kitchen, and a storage room. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the front of the premises which has a paved area. The service is registered to provide sessional care from 07:30am to 18:00pm. The morning consists of two sessional classes from 9:30am to 13:00pm and in the afternoon one sessional class is offered from 1:30pm to 17:00pm in one care room. The second care room is used to provide school aged care in the afternoons.

Staffing

The service currently employs seven staff members, including one kitchen staff and the registered provider. On the day of inspection there was five staff members including the registered provider working directly with the children and all five staff had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to be equivalent. The designated person in charge does not work directly with the children and was available to attend a feedback meeting at the close of inspection.

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

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations;

Regulation 9(1)(a)-(c), (2)(a) -(d), (3), (4) and (7) Management and recruitment.

Regulation 11(1) and (3) Staffing levels.

Regulation 16 (h), (i) Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

Regulation 19 (1) (a) Health welfare and development of child.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 (e) Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 16 (h) and (i) Record in Relation to Pre-School Service.

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

Due to a condition which was attached to the services registration on the 13 March 2023, care is currently only provided for children aged two to six years of age for a maximum number of forty pre-school children.

On 22 April 2024, the service submitted a change in circumstances form to change the service type from full day care / part-time to a sessional service.

Acknowledgments

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

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (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.*

(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.

(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;*
- (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and*
- (c) these Regulations.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and two named persons to deputise if required.
 - (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises for the duration of the inspection. Two persons appointed to deputise were on the premises also.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service. Staff were aware of who was in charge and who was available to deputise as required and detailed this during discussions with the inspectors.
- (2)
- Following a discussion with the appointed person in charge it was confirmed that three adults commenced working in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on the 17th and 18th of April 2024. Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of these three adults as detailed below.
- (a) (b) There were two references each available for the three adults which had been appropriately verified.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for each of the three adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for all adults employed to work in the service.
 - (d) Two of the new employees required international police vetting, the required documentation was available for the two adults.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the three adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) The three adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

- (7) The registered provider demonstrated that they had taken reasonable measures to ensure that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with sufficient information and training to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending the service and to comply with the regulations as follows;
- During discussions with the inspectors and observations during the inspection, staff members demonstrated an awareness of the policies and associated procedures in place in the service. Staff informed the inspectors they had received policy and procedure training prior to taking up employment in the service. These training documents were available for review on the day of inspection.
 - During discussions with the staff members and person in charge they explained that regular team meetings and one on one support and supervision meetings were in place since the last inspection of the service on the 17th and 18th April 2024 for all staff members. There was no documentation available on the day of inspection to verify this, however staff members stated during discussions with the inspectors that they receive regular and consistent support through one to one supervision meetings with the centre manager.
 - Three staff members had commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection. The staff members confirmed that they had received formal induction training when they commenced employment. There were detailed records of induction training available for the three adults, which included training on the policies, procedures and associated practices in place in the service.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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.

(3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were twenty-five children present in the service being supervised by five adults during the inspection.

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:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Compliance Information

(1)(i)

A record of a staff roster for the week was available and accurately reflected each staff member present on the day of inspection. The staff roster available was dated 7-11 April 2025.

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

(1)(a)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed throughout the inspection. The routine of the service was child led, children were visibly content and happy in their play-based activities throughout the inspection. Staff supported children in their play, sitting with them and involving themselves when invited by a child or by using prompts to extend play and learning. Staff communicated well with the children, using kind tones and gentle language during interactions. Transitions were handled well, and children were aware of the routine. The service had a healthy eating policy. Snacks were provided for children from their home and included a mix of fruit, vegetables and dairy. Staff sat with children and engaged in conversation while they ate and encouraged children to feed themselves independently, assisting where needed. Children were encouraged to be independent

in using the toilet and regular nappy changes were offered to children requiring them. Minor disputes between children were managed in a calm manner and staff were observed to comfort children if they became upset. Staff demonstrated a comprehensive knowledge of children's individual care needs during discussions with the inspector on the weekly activities and individual care plans. Children were observed to use the outside area on the day of inspection. There was a range of equipment to promote physical development available.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Care practice was observed which may negatively impact the health and wellbeing of the children in attendance as follows:

- At 11:17am a child attending the ECCE room had a soiled nappy and required changing. A staff member attempted on three occasions to change the child's nappy, however the only nappy changing area available in the service was occupied by the Playgroup room. The child remained in the soiled nappy playing outdoors until 11:39am when the changing area became available and they were changed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A new nappy changing unit was ordered for the ECCE room, this will prevent children from the ECCE room waiting for the changing room to become available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early year's inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted as stated will address the non-compliance identified. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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:

- Entrances and exits were secured to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised.
- Cleaning products were stored out of reach of children.
- Cables and flexes were secured out of reach of children.

- Emergency exits were kept clear for safe evacuation if needed.
- Medicines were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The kitchen and storage facilities were inaccessible to children.

Infection Control:

- Sanitary facilities were appropriately equipped and well maintained.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating and after outdoor play. Staff were observed washing their hands at appropriate times.
- Waste was managed appropriately with pedal operated, lidded bins.
- A system was in place for the effective sterilisation of mouthed toys.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

Some observations were deemed inadequate for infection control purposes and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows;

- The nappy changing mat in the designated nappy changing area was torn.
- The nappy changing mat in the designated nappy changing area had a build-up of dirt on its edges.
- There was a build up of dirt and dead insects accumulated around the bin area in the hallway between the two classrooms, this poses a safety risk as the area was accessible to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The torn nappy changing mat has been removed and replaced.
2. The staff have been reminded to disinfect the changing are after each use.
3. The bin and brush have been removed from the hallway.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early year's inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted as stated will address the non-compliance identified. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Non-Compliance Information

(e)
On the day of inspection there were sixteen children present requiring nappy changes between the two rooms and only one nappy changing unit available, as a result children were left waiting to have soiled nappies changed as detailed above under Regulation 19. One nappy changing unit is required for every eleven children attending a pre-school service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A new nappy changing unit has been installed in the service, this will prevent children from the ECCE room waiting for the changing room to become available.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early year's inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions submitted as stated will address the non-compliance identified. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.