

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS043
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Mrs Giggles
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Rear of 29 Boot Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D22 CX83
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ingrid McDonnell
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	21 September 2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	26	PM	15
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla - Child and Family Agency Trinity Building, IDA Business Park Bray, Co Wicklow
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mary Redmond / Linda Magee
<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>	13th February 2023 Part VI, Article (23) Child Care Act 1991 Early Years Regulations 2016 The Registered Provider are required to:
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- change the age profile of your service from 1 to 6 years to 2 to 6 years
- ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to identify and promptly address any matter that would negatively impact on the safety and wellbeing of children in attendance in the service.
- implement a risk assessment system outlining the process of risk identification, staff roles and responsibilities, the controls/mitigation of identified risks in a timely manner. The risk assessments must be reviewed regularly and updated as required.

This condition is to remain in place for a period of 12 months

### Description of service

This private childcare service was acquired by the registered provider in December 2021. The service is registered to provide full day care for children aged one to five years of age; a sessional service for pre-school children is provided for 38 weeks of the year and a school-aged childcare service also operates from the premises. 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 five years of age for a maximum number of forty pre-school children.

The service operates from an adapted unit in a residential area of Dublin southwest. Two care rooms are available and a separate sleep room is provided for children who require sleep and rest during the day. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the front of the premises which has a partially paved area and an artificial grass covering. A good variety of outdoor play equipment and materials was provided in this area.

### Staffing

There were eleven adults employed in the service including a cook and the registered provider who is present in the service on a daily basis. Six adults working in the service 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 registered provider does not have a childcare qualification and three adults who were employed to work with the school-aged children do not require a childcare qualification.

### 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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and safety.

The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The purpose of this inspection was to review conditions which were attached to the registration of the service on the 13 March 2023.

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

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 Staffing levels

Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child

Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service

Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child

The inspection plan did not include Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child but the outstanding non-compliance from the previous inspection report was reviewed.

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 and staff who facilitated the inspection and children who were present on the day of the inspection

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person’s past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

(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;

### Compliance Information

The staff files for eleven adults were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for eight adults employed in the service.
  - (b) Appropriate references from other sources were available for one adult who did not have a previous employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting was available for eleven adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was available for two adults for whom it was required.

(4) Four adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications and two adults had qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth (DCEDIY) to meet the regulatory requirement.

- (7)
- (a) Adults working in the service were familiar with policies and procedures of the service. This included an adult who had recently commenced working in the service and had read the policies and procedures and received support from the manager and registered provider during the induction period. The process was consistent with the recruitment and induction policy for the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) 1. There was no reference for one adult from their most recent employer and another reference for this adult had not been validated.
  - 2. Two references for one other adult were not validated.

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

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

Outstanding references have been submitted and have been validated. The registered provider will be responsible for obtaining and validating references in the future.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

References and evidence of validations have been submitted and reviewed.

#### **Summary Comment**

The regulatory requirement has now been met.

### 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.*

#### **Compliance Information**

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were five adults working directly with twenty-six children in the morning and three adults caring for fifteen pre-school children in the afternoon; this included the service manager.

### 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) Ten records of children attending the service were randomly selected for review. The records reviewed contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service was recorded on five forms.
- (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) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
- (f) The documentation available supported the recording of illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
- (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
- (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The date on which five children first attended the service was not recorded.

(g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was not recorded.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The records have been updated and start dates will be recorded for all children. An additional page with the GP details for each child has been completed by parents and added to children's records. This information will be requested for all children going forward.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Relevant documentation has been submitted and reviewed.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 paper sheets.
- (i) A staff roster was available.
- (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child and that administration of medication should be witnessed.
- (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there was evidence available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

## 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)**

Food was offered to children at regular intervals throughout the day; the main meal of the day was cooked on the premises and parents were also given the opportunity to supply snacks for children. Adults sat with children when they were eating and children were given time to finish food at their own pace. Children's preferences were respected as evidenced when one child did not want dinner and was offered the opportunity to have it kept until later in the day. Drinking water was available to children throughout the day in individual bottles.

Care was given to children's comfort and appearance. Children's noses were cleaned when required and they had their hands and faces washed after eating. Children who wore nappies had them changed regularly during the day and at other times when required. Adults were observed to interact attentively with young children during the nappy changing procedure. Older children were supported to use the toilet independently and were encouraged to wash their hands afterwards.

Young children who slept on low beds during the day were facilitated away from the general play area and had heavy clothing and shoes removed before being put down to sleep and rest.

Children had daily access to outdoor play and wore appropriate clothing when outside.

### 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

##### **Infection Control:**

Children's hands were washed after outdoor play and before eating. Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper hand towels and foot pedal operated bins were available to facilitate good hand hygiene practices. The nappy changing procedure observed was effective for infection prevention and control which included adults removing gloves before redressing children and washing children's hands after the procedure.