

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS131
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Name of Service:	Daisy Chain Montessori and Childcare Centre
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Address of Service:	Fortfield Square, College Drive, Terenure, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin
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Name of Registered Provider:	Gemma Rave, Lucy Madigan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	26/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	49	PM	44
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Linda Magee & Olivia Quill
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
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Description of service

Daisychain is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care for pre-school children aged from 1-6 years. It operates Monday to Friday between the hours of 7:30 am -6:30 pm. The early years service is located in a residential area in Terenure, South County Dublin. The service is located at ground floor level and operates from a purpose-built premises within an apartment complex. There are four care rooms available for the pre-school children named: Wobbler (1 year), Toddler (2 years), small Montessori (2.5-4 years) and big Montessori (3-4 years). An outdoor play area for children is provided to the rear and side of the premises.

Staffing

Twenty-one adults are employed to work in the service including the manager and two adults who are employed for ancillary duties. On the day of inspection eighteen adults were working directly with the children. This included two area managers, the person in charge and the deputy person who were available to support staff when needed and moved between rooms. One of the registered providers arrived during the inspection but did not work directly with the children.

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 facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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 triggered following receipt of information to the inspectorate on 23 January 2026.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, area managers, 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.

(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

(1)

(a) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present at all times on the day of inspection.

(c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability for each employee.

(2) The inspection included a review of ten staff files for adults who had commenced working in the service and a review of Garda vetting disclosures for five staff whose vetting had expired since the last inspection on 7 May 2025.

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

(a) Twenty written validated references were provided from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were inspected for fifteen adults. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting disclosures were available for nine staff members who lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to show that all staff members employed to work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Department of Children.

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

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

Policies were reviewed in light of the information received which triggered this inspection. These were verified during discussions with staff working in the service. These policies included the staff induction policy, outdoor play policy and the supervision policy. These were found to contain sufficient information to inform practice appropriate to the setting.

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.

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 was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were forty-nine children attending the preschool being supervised by twelve adults in the morning and forty-four children with ten adults in the afternoon.

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.

Compliance Information

- (1) (k) A sample of accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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

All food is provided by the service for children who attend on a full day or part time basis. Dinner was pork and rice which was provided by a private catering company and served for the main meal of the day. Children were encouraged to feed themselves and staff were observed supporting younger children who needed assistance with their meal. Water was available throughout the day in individual named cups and bottles. Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after dinner as required. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent when using the toilet. Children's nappies were changed regularly and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated sleep time in the Wobbler and Toddler rooms. The children did not use the outdoor area on the day of inspection due to the inclement weather.

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:

- Staff will supervise their core group of children while moving around the service and to the outdoor area. This will include conducting head counts or a roll call to ensure these transitions are managed smoothly.
- 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 storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and nappy changing and before meals.
- Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Four trailing cables were observed in the big Montessori room posing a potential risk hazard and potential risk to children.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The service has tapered the four flexes to the wall. The service has implemented the following preventative actions to prevent a reoccurrence.
 - Re training of the Risk assessments for all staff
 - New system of reporting hazards to registered provider
 - Health and safety training for staff updated to stress the importance of recognising and reporting hazards as part of our duty of care
 - Addressed in a managers meeting
 - New memo regarding daily risk assessments

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

Forty-nine preschool children were appropriately supervised throughout the inspection. The registered provider described how the service had revised procedures for supervision and safety in the outdoor area following an incident that occurred. On the day of inspection, staff training had begun on these updates to the procedures.