

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DS131
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Daisy Chain Montessori and Childcare Centre
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Fortfield Square, College Drive, Terenure, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D6W N236
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Gemma Rave, Lucy Madigan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	07/05/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	57	PM	56
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Brunel Building Heuston South Quarter Saint John's Road West Dublin 8. D08 X01F
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	R. Duff J. Mayock
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors
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### 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>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This private childcare facility is one of four services operated by the registered providers in the Dublin area. The service 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 07:30 -18:30.

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 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 fifteen adults worked directly with the children. The person in charge and the deputy person were available to support staff when needed and moved between rooms. The registered provider and area manager 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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

- 9 (1), (2), (4) Management and recruitment,
- 11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing levels,
- 19(1)(a)(b) Health, welfare and development of child
- 23 Safeguarding, Health, safety and welfare of child
- 28 Insurance
- 31 Notification of incidents

On inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 16, Records in relation to preschool service. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 and 23.

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 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.

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

#### Compliance Information

(1) (a)(b)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The inspection included a review of 12 staff files for adults who had commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 29 July 2024 and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b)

Of the 24 written and validated references that were required, 20 were available from a past employer and 4 were available from a reputable source.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the 20 staff members employed to work in the service. 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 10 new 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 11 new staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent.

## 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

(8)(a) There were 2 adults on the premises at all times.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) From 11:50am-12:10pm in the wobbler sleep room one member of staff was caring for 10 children. The children were observed to be unsettled and required staff attention to sooth them to sleep. Due to the lack of staff children found it difficult to settle down to sleep.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was not adhered to at all times during the inspection. The ratio in the wobbler sleep room from 11:50am-12:10pm was not maintained.

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

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

The register provider has stated that all lunch breaks will be scheduled to ensure 2 staff members are present during the transition and settling to sleep time. A floating member of staff we be present to support staff in the room when necessary. The manager will also carry out spot checks at sleep time to ensure ratios are met.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the provider will address the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next 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:

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

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (k) A sample of 21 accident and incident forms were reviewed from the wobbler and toddler rooms. 6 forms didn't have a manager's signature. This is required to ensure the correct procedures are followed by all staff and management.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that all accident and incident records have now been signed by the manager, a memo has been sent to all staff reminding them of the importance of having all information filled out on accident and incident forms. Manger will carry out spot checks.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the provider will address the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

### 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*

*(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)(a)(b)

The inspectors observed appropriate care practices in place. The children moved freely in all rooms – exploring their environment, playing and engaging with each other and the staff. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed children by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. Language used by the staff members was observed to be encouraging, supportive and informative. Individual daily reports were kept throughout the day to give to parents/guardians to provide for continuation of care. Identity and belonging were promoted in all care rooms with children's family photos, and

artwork displayed on the walls of the care rooms and visible to children. Children spent time outdoors throughout the day and were dressed appropriate to the weather.

Children were given advance warnings to support transitions to a new activity and for mealtimes. Children brought morning and afternoon snacks from home and the service provides a hot meal at lunch time. Drinks were readily available within the care rooms. Mealtimes were social occasions with children and adults sitting together, staff provided children with help when needed. Younger children were supported to eat independently, and bibs were worn during meals to protect the children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Children were assisted to clean their faces and hands at appropriate times. Older children used the toilet independently and children wearing nappies had these changed regularly. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm one to one interactions with the children. Children in the wobbler and toddler rooms were placed to sleep as part of the room routine. Children who had soothers were offered these when they were being placed to sleep. Areas were provided within all rooms where children could rest or take a break from activities.

### 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:

- When the inspectors arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by staff to restrict unauthorized persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised. In addition, the outdoor play area was securely gated restricting unauthorized persons from gaining access to this area and to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- Medicines and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All blind cords were secured.

##### Infection Control:

Measures were taken to minimise the risk of infection spreading.

- Soothers were kept in individual containers to avoid cross-contamination.
- The sanitary facilities were equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins.
- The children and adults washed their hands at appropriate intervals throughout the inspection.
- Waste was managed appropriately using pedal-operated bins.

### Administration of Medication:

- Medications were stored in their original packaging out of reach of children. Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included getting written consent from parents or guardians, having a second staff member present as a witness during administration, and maintaining detailed records shared with parents or guardians upon collection. Care plans were available for children who required regular or emergency medication.

### Safe Sleep:

- Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room and the younger care rooms, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Cots and sleep mats were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were recorded and maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection.

### Outing:

- The manager reported children are not taken on any outings from the premises.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. In the big Montessori room, a low-level bookcase appeared to be missing some screws. The bookcase was leaning to one side and was unsteady. This posed a potential risk of harm to a child if it fell over.

#### Infection Control:

2. In the nappy changing area, tubs of nappy rash cream without lids were stored in a communal basket. This poses a potential risk of cross contamination. This is at variance with the nappy changing policy which states that only children's individually labelled cream should be used.
3. In the toddler room, when preparing for sleep time, children continuously walked across beds wearing shoes, this poses a potential of infection to children as shoes had food residue on the soles, were worn outside and into the sanitary area.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### General Safety:

The registered provider has stated:

1. The bookcase has been fixed; staff have been reminded of the procedures they should follow if they observe any broken toys or equipment.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

#### Infection Control:

2. All nappy rash creams will be labelled and stored with lids on. A memo has been sent to all staff reminding them of the importance of keeping the lids on tubs of cream. This step has also been included in the updated nappy changing procedure.
3. A new transition routine from the garden has been developed in the toddler room. A memo has been sent to all staff informing them of the new system. All staff have signed it.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the provider will address the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured the full day care service was insured. The insurance certificate provided for review showed cover for the 66 children and an expiry date of 27 March 2026.

## Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

### Regulation 31 - Notification of incidents

*A registered provider shall notify the Agency in writing within 3 working days of becoming aware of any of the following incidents occurring in the preschool service:*

*(d) a serious injury to a pre-school child while attending the service that requires immediate medical treatment by a registered medical practitioner whether in a hospital or otherwise;*

### Compliance Information

(d) No notifiable incidents occurred since the last notifiable incident reported on 05/02/2025