

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS131		
Name of Service:	Daisy Chain Montessori and Childcare Centre		
Address of Service:	Fortfield Square, College Drive, Terenure, Dublin 6W, Co. Dublin.		
Eircode:	D6W N236		
Name of Registered Provider:	Gemma Rave and Lucy Madigan		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	29/07/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	39	PM 39
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill and Sarah 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 facility is one of four services privately operated by the registered providers in the Dublin region. The service is registered to provide a 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 sub-urban 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

Fourteen adults are employed to work in the service including the manager and an adult is also employed for ancillary duties. On the 29 July 2024 nine adults worked directly with the children including the manager. The registered providers arrived during the inspection and worked directly with the children supporting staff and relieving staff for their breaks.

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)(a)(b), (2)(a) -(d), (4) Management and Recruitment,

11(1), (2), (8)(a) Staffing Levels,

19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

25 (1), (2) (a), (b) First Aid

26 (1), (a), (b) and (4) Fire Safety Measures

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 providers, 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

(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) There was a designated person in charge and named persons to deputise as required. The manager was the person in charge for this inspection.

(2) The inspection included a review of ten files for new adults employed in the service from the 8 December 2022 to date and included a review of Garda vetting disclosures for all staff.

(a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service.

(b) Suitable references from other sources were available for adults who did not have a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available all adults employed in the service. These were dated within the previous three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for two adults who had resided outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months.

(4) There was evidence available to demonstrate ten new adults employed had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework for Qualifications, or a qualification deemed to meet the regulatory requirement.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(d) Police vetting was not available as required for three adults who had resided outside the State for a period longer than six consecutive months. Our recruitment manager has been retrained in Regulation 9 and a new checklist has been created.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

All staff police vetting has been received for any staff member residing out of the state or a period longer than six months. Our recruitment manager has been retrained in Regulation 9 and a new checklist has been created.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has 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.

(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 thirty-nine children attending the service being supervised by nine adults on the day of inspection.

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

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)

The inspectors observed appropriate and suitable care practices within the service. Healthy snacks were provided by parents and a hot meal of sweet potato and rice was offered by the service at lunchtime. Staff sat with children at mealtime, younger children were encouraged to feed themselves and additional support was given by staff as required. They provided the children with bibs to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were offered when children were eating. The staff supported the children to manage their personal care. Children were given face cloths after eating to clean their hands and faces. The children's nappies were changed routinely and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Older children went to the toilet independently while being supervised by staff.

There was a calm atmosphere in the service. Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children throughout the inspection with the use of soft and gentle tones. Throughout the morning children were observed engaged in a variety of activities of their choosing including drawing and imaginative play. The children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. The children were made comfortable for sleep with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing. The environments were calm and conducive to sleep, with staff staying with the children and soothing them as needed during this time. All children were given the opportunity to spent time in the outdoor play area. The outdoor play area was divided into two separate areas, it was safely enclosed and had an artificial grass surface. Areas of interest had been created for the children including messy play a mud kitchen and sand trays. Seating was available to allow children to rest as required.

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.
- Medicines and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supervised washing their hands after outdoor play, using the toilet and prior to eating.
- Staff followed the nappy changing policy when changing children's nappies.
- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Snacks were stored in the fridges provided in each care room.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.
- Individual bed linen was provided for children. Staff stated that bed linen is laundered weekly.

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.
- The temperatures of the sleep rooms was maintained at the required temperature for sleep.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. The protective covering around a lamppost in the outdoor area to the side of the premises was torn and small pieces of the masking tape were on the ground and foam was exposed posing a potential choking hazard for the children.

Administration of Medication:

2. In the Small Montessori room, the procedures described by adults when administering prescribed medication to children were contrary to the medication policy of the service. Adults reported giving medication to children without prior written consent which is contrary to the policy which states all prescribed medicine must be signed for by parents, staff will only administer with written and verbal consent.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The non-compliance was immediately reported to our maintenance man and it was covered in a more suitable covering. All staff were informed in a memo about garden safety and retrained in risk assessments of the garden. The health and safety officers discussed the non-compliance in a H&S meeting and we updated the H&S officers checklist.

Administration of Medication:

2. The administration of medicine policy was revised and all staff were re trained and signed off. The manager does more regular spot checks on practice i.e. that the practice equals what's written in the Policy.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence.

Administration of Medication:

Written evidence.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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.

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-

(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and

(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.

Compliance Information

(1) A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available at all times on the day of inspection. Three staff caring for the children had up to date First Aid responder training certificates.

(2)(a), (b) Each care room had a suitably equipped first aid box which was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-

(a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and

(b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.

(2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,

(b) an employee, and

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) A written record was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 11 July 2024.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 1 August 2023 and the maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place on 11 June 2024.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.