

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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| TUSLA Identifier: | TU2015DS151 |
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| Name of Service: | Young Days Pre School & Montessori |
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| Address of Service: | 85 Templeroan Avenue, Knocklyon, Dublin 16 |
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| Eircode: | D16 A4E7 |
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| Name of Registered Provider: | Suzanne Young |
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| Service type: | Sessional |
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| Date of Inspection: | 05/03/2026 |
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| No of pre-school children: | AM | 10 | PM | N/A |
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| Address of the Early Years Inspectorate: | Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 The Brunel Building, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 |
| Inspection undertaken by: | Elizabeth Finnegan Hayes |
| Title: | Inspection and Registration Manager |

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).

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| Conditions if applicable | Not applicable |
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Description of service

Young Days Preschool & Montessori is a privately run sessional service which operates Monday to Friday 9am - 12:30pm and caters for children aged 2-6 years. The service operates thirty-eight weeks of the year in line with the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme programme. The service consists of one care room to the side of a residential property in an urban area in South Dublin. An enclosed outdoor area is located to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children in the service and employs one staff member. Both adults were present and working directly with the children on the day 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, and safety. 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff member 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) The registered provider works in the service as the designated person in charge and the staff member employed is available to deputise if needed.
 - (b) Both adults are scheduled to be on the premises for the full duration of the opening hours as demonstrated by the roster and staff attendance record.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in the service.
- (2)
- (a) Three written references from a past employer were available in the staff file, two of which were for the staff member employed. Evidence showed that these references had been verified by the registered provider.
 - (b) One written reference was available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) A review of the staff files showed that one adult required police vetting having resided in a country other than Ireland for a period of more than 6 months. An International Child Protection Certificate (ICPC) was available for this adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that both adults held 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.

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) Two adults were working directly with ten children during the inspection. This was adequate to meet the needs of the children present.
- (3) The minimum adult to child ratio of 1:11 was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. Two adults were caring for ten children aged 2.5-5 years old who were present.

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)

Basic Needs

- The service had a calm, warm atmosphere and staff were observed to greet the inspector and children warmly.
- Food is provided by parents for their own children daily. Children were observed to eat a range of food for snack on the day of inspection including sandwiches, crackers, yoghurts and fruit in line with the service's healthy eating policy which the registered provider reports was shared with the parents.
- Children's cues were recognised and children were supported to use the toilet as needed with support from staff when required.

- A structured daily routine was evident in the service and supported by a visual timetable / job chart. Children were observed to be very comfortable and knowledgeable of the routine.
- Children were given ample time to finish activities before moving on to the next, for example at clean up time one child advised the staff member she wasn't finished her jigsaw. The staff member responded that it was ok she could finish it before cleaning up. The transition proceeded smoothly in a timely manner for the other children who were ready to move on and once the child was finished their jigsaw they moved to the next activity along with their peers. This ensured the needs of all the children were adequately met.

Supporting relationships

- Circle time was used to engage children, encourage songs and storytelling and children were supported to share stories from home, for example one child was heard telling everyone about the sports he plays. This information sharing and discussion was supported and encouraged by staff.
- Mealtimes were a calm and social time with lots of opportunity for children to eat at their own pace and engage in conversations with their friends and staff.
- Minor disagreements and upsets were managed effectively. Staff engaged early as situations arose and supported children to solve disagreements and supported children who became upset in a kind and calm manner.

Physical and Material environment

- The environment supported children to move freely and make choices independently about which materials or toys to use and where to sit.
- Montessori work was neatly displayed on low level shelving for ease of access and staff supported children to choose items as needed.
- A kitchen, blocks, stickle brick and magnetic tiles were also available for children to use freely.
- A cosy area with a thick, soft mat and large cushions was available for children to rest or take a break from activities. The bookshelf, which held a selection of books neatly displayed, was positioned adjacent to the mat within easy reach, supporting the use of this area for quieter activities.
- The outdoor area was adequately equipped with a range of toys including a slide, two seesaws, wheelbarrow, a scooters and a sandpit.

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 door to the service and an external gate were adequately secured to prevent children leaving the service unsupervised.
- Water in the sanitary area was maintained at a level which prevented scalds to the children. The water temperature was recorded as 39.5°C on the inspector's calibrated thermometer at 10:34am.
- Blind cords were out of reach of the children and adequately secured to the wall to prevent injury.
- Staff were observed to check lunches and ensure all fruits were cut to appropriate sizes.

Infection Control:

- Handwashing was observed to be completed before mealtimes and children were familiar with the process.
- Tables were cleaned with antibacterial spray following work time and prior to lunchtime.
- A pedal operated lidded bin was available for the disposal of waste.
- A sheet and cushions located in the cosy area were observed to be clean and well kept.

Fire Safety:

- A procedure showing the steps to be followed in the event of a fire emergency was displayed in the care room and staff were clear on the procedure to be followed.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Children's lunches which contained perishable items were not observed to be refrigerated on the morning of inspection. This posed a potential risk of lunch items spoiling prior to being consumed.
2. Paper handtowels were not hygienically dispensed in the sanitary area. This posed a potential risk of cross contamination.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider will ensure that the children's lunches are refrigerated every day. The service has updated their diet and nutrition policy to reflect this.
2. Paper handtowels are stored hygienically and are accessible to the children. The registered provider will ensure that this practice continues. The service has updated their infection control policy to reflect this.

Supporting documentation submitted

1. Photographic evidence of the children's lunches stored in the fridge and the updated policy have been submitted.
2. Photographic evidence of the paper handtowels and the updated policy have been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 23.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
- (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
- (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

Compliance Information

- (1) Staff were observed to greet children at the door when they arrived at the service and the children's attendance was recorded promptly in the attendance book.

- (3)
 - (a) The registered provider ensured that the service entrance was secured appropriately to prevent unauthorised access to the service. In addition to the classroom door being secured, the inspector observed an outdoor gate to be secured with a latch once all of the children had arrived in the service. This further prevented unauthorised person having any access to the service.
 - (b) A visitor log was maintained in the service, and the inspector was asked to sign in on arrival.

- (4) A review of the visitor log showed entries dating back for a period of more than 1 year.