

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS164		
Name of Service:	Mary's House Tallaght		
Address of Service:	8 Old Bawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.		
Eircode:	D24NT25		
Name of Registered Provider:	Anthony McLeod		
Service type:	Full Day Care, Part-Time & Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	09/05/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	24	PM 22
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 7 th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.		
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern		
Title:	Early Years Inspector		
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

Mary's House Tallaght (previously named M+E The Wombles) has been in operation by the current registered provider since November 2023. The service operates from a purposely adapted single storey house. It comprises five childcare rooms and an outdoor area. The service is open from 7:45am to 5pm. It is registered to provide for children aged between 0 and 6 years but is currently accommodating children aged between 2 and 6 years.

Staffing

There are eleven staff members employed to work in the service including the person in charge and ancillary staff. Eight staff members are employed to 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 areas 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, 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) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise.
- (b) Either the person in charge or named deputy was on the premises during the inspection. The staff roster provided for the person in charge or a named deputy to be present at all times of opening.
- (2)
- (a) & (b) It was evident that appropriate consideration had been given to the references of all adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults and were dated within the last three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for all adults whom this was required.
- (4) All adults working directly with children held 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.

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 with the children. There were six adults working directly with 24 children aged 2-6 years. The person in charge was available to assist as needed.
- (2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement was always maintained.

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

Children moved freely throughout the inspection, exploring the environment, and engaging in activities. They spent time in the outdoor area and wore sunscreen and hats appropriate to the weather. Snacks, meals, and drinks were offered at regular intervals. Drinking water was always available to the children and was offered with all meals and snacks.

Staff supported the children to manage their personal care. Bibs were provided to protect the younger children's clothes from becoming soiled or wet when eating. Staff supported the children to wash their hands and clean their faces and noses when needed. Children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and in between when required. Staff used these opportunities for warm one-to-one interactions. Children who used the toilet were supported towards independence.

Areas were provided with matting, soft seats, and cushions where the children could rest or take a break from activities. Younger children were provided with an opportunity to sleep after dinner. Low beds with mattresses were provided appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the children. They were made comfortable for sleep with staff providing blankets, removing their outer clothing, and providing soothers to those who used them. The rooms were calm and conducive to sleep at these times.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children through use of soft and gentle tones. A key-worker system was in place to support secure attachments. They provided comfort to children who became upset in a timely manner. The staff kept a record in relation to the individual children for sharing with parents/guardians. This included information relating to diet, personal care, sleep, and activities.

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 always available to the children. The staff roster provided for a trained person to be available at all times of opening.

(2)

(a) A suitable equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position, easily accessible to staff.

(b) The first aid box was always available to the children.

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.

(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) Records were available of fire drills carried out in the service. The most recent drill recorded was dated April 2024.

(b) A record was available detailing the maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment dated September 2023.

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

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b) A record was not available in relation to the maintenance of the smoke alarm system.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has entered a contract to have maintenance done on the smoke alarm system. The contract is to have the smoke alarm system inspected every quarter.

Supporting documentation submitted

- Maintenance record for fire alarm system dated 10 May 2024.
- Copy of maintenance agreement dated 10 May 2024 to 9 May 2025.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted have been deemed to appropriately address the non-compliance.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available dated until 27 March 2025.