

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY156
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Old Mc Donalds
-------------------------	----------------

Address of Service:	1 Fleming Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

Eircode:	D09 N8X2
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Claire McDonald
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Service type:	Part Time
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	15/09/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne
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

Old McDonald's is a privately owned childcare service based in Dublin 9. The service operates from a two-storey house in a residential area. The service consists of one large childcare room, a kitchen, a sanitary area on the ground floor of the house and an outdoor area to the front and to the rear of the house. The service provides part-time care for preschool children aged between 3-5 years, Monday to Friday from 9am -1pm

Staffing

Two adults were present on the day of inspection including the registered provider and one staff member , who works directly with the preschool 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 and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 10, 11, 15, 19, 23, 25 and 26.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 Record of a Preschool Child and Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

The scope of the inspection included the one care room of the service.

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

An Immediate Action notice was issued to the service on the 15 September 2025 in relation to the Regulation 23- Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child.

On the 16 September 2025 the registered provider responded to the immediate action notice outlining the measures implemented within the service to mitigate the risk. Please see details in the body of the inspection report.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider and the staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

(2) It was confirmed by the registered provider that no new staff members were employed in the service since the last inspection on the 9 November 2023. Garda Vetting disclosures for the Registered Provider and for the one staff member, whose file was reviewed on the last inspection, were available for inspection.

(a) (b) Not applicable.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for two adults. The service had adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(4) Not Applicable

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

The registered provider ensured that written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 were in place for the service and available for inspection.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children, as there were two adults working with 13 children for the ECCE session 9am to 12pm and for the Part-time session from 12pm to 1pm, ensuring ratios were maintained on the day of inspection.

(2) The minimum required adult to child ratio was maintained throughout the inspection.

(8) (a) The registered provider ensured there were two adults always present on the premises.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) (d) The registered provider ensured they had the name and contact details of parents for the 16 children attending the service, where the parent or guardian of the child could be contacted during the hours of operation of the service. The telephone numbers were made available to the inspector for review.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) No written record was available for 12 children attending the service containing the following information, was available:

- (a) name and date of birth of the child.
- (b) date on which the child first attended the service.
- (d) address of a parent or guardian of the child.
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency and

For one child, the record available was not complete and did not have the following details available :

(a) name and date of birth of the child.

(b) date on which the child first attended the service.

(d) address of a parent or guardian of the child.

(e) authorisation for the collection of the child.

(f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention.

(g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner.

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) All parents were contacted and asked that all completed forms to be returned immediately. The registered provider now has all the registration forms and the information has been entered into the attendance book. The registered provider will ensure that all forms are sent out to parents in August before the service opens and the registration forms must be returned to the before their child can start preschool in the September.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) Photographic Evidence submitted

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 15 has been adequately addressed.

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 inspector observed that the children’s learning, development and well-being was supported by the staff and the environment.
- The children brought their own lunches from home consisting of sandwiches, crackers, vegetables, fruit and yogurts. Lunchtime at 11.00am was observed as a relaxed and sociable event with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their ages. The children’s water bottles were available for the children to drink.
- The children were observed to have freedom of movement during play, both indoor and outdoor with a variety of opportunities of play developing their gross and fine motor skills.

Supporting Relationships:

- The inspector observed the staff interacting warmly with the children, engaging positively, and supporting them with their care, work, and play. Language development was supported by the adults through conversation.
- The service had a dog present which provided comfort and support to the children.
- The service’s communication with parents is completed by text messages on the registered provider’s phone.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The materials and equipment provided to the children in the rooms were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children present. Children had the freedom to choose from materials and equipment available to them.
- Child sized furniture supported children’s independence.
- A large couch provided a cosy space offering a quiet comfortable area for children to rest and relax during the day.
- The service had two outdoor play environments, one to the front with a real grass surface and one to the rear of the premises a concrete surface. The outdoor toys available and included slides, two playhouses, basketball net, two ride on toys, two ride in cars, a swing set, a sand pit and a water play container.

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:

- Access to the service building via the front door which operates by a bell, preventing unauthorised access into the service building and unauthorised exit from the service building.
- Attendance records were available for review, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap and dispensed handtowels were available in the sanitary facilities.
- Children were observed to wash their hands after toilet visits and before lunch.

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. One area of fencing in the front outdoor play area was not secure leading to a child leaving the outdoor area unsupervised. As a result, and taking account of observations made by the inspector, an Immediate Action notice was issued to the registered provider in relation to safety concerns on the 15 September 2025.

A response was received from the registered provider on the 16 September 2025 with the revised practices and procedures put in place to reduce risk of re-occurrence.
2. Trailing flexes from a laptop and music player were accessible to the children in the care room, leading to a risk of injury.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The front garden will no longer be used as an outdoor play area and the service will now only use the secure back garden as an outdoor play area.
2. The service will no longer use the laptop for music and have introduced a battery-operated music player to play music.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No evidence.
2. Photographic Evidence

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliances identified under Regulation 23 have been adequately addressed. The use of the back garden as the only outdoor play area will be reviewed on next inspection.

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) The service provided evidence that two adults were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and were available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.
- (2) (a) (b) Two first aid boxes were stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in each of the care rooms and in the event of an emergency and were available to the adults responsible for 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) A written record was available of the fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 15 June 2025 before closure for the summer months of July and August 2025 as a 38-week part time service.
- (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance was available for the firefighting equipment in the premises, last serviced on 4 November 2024.
- (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the premises and observed by the Inspector.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)(b) A record of the number, type and maintenance was not available for the smoke alarms in the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)(b) The smoke alarms were serviced on the 26 September 2025. The registered provider has reminders now in place to ensure to get the smoke alarms serviced in August each year.

Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)(b) Photographic Evidence of Maintenance certificate

Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 26 has been adequately addressed.