

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY280
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Name of Service:	Ups A Daisy Childcare
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Address of Service:	2 Somerville Park, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 K889
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Name of Registered Provider:	Samantha Salinger
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	07/08/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley & Olivia Quill
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
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Description of service

Ups A Daisy Childcare is a full day care service located in a residential area of Walkinstown, South County Dublin. Care and education are provided to children aged between one and six years and the operating hours are from Monday to Friday between 07:30 and 18:30. The service is a purpose built, two storey property to the rear of the registered providers family home. Children are allocated across four care rooms in line with their age and stage of development. The children have access to an outdoor play area which is attached to the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs five staff members including the registered provider who works directly with the children. On the day of inspection each of the five staff members were present.

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/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection included an assessment of the following regulations;

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 26 - 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 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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

The assessment of regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(d)(3)(4) was limited to adults who had commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection on the 18th July 2023. As no new staff members had been employed, the requirements of these regulations were not assessed.

(9)(2)

(c) Regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed for each of the five adults employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures were available for the five adults. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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 directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were twenty-three children present in the service being supervised by five adults during the 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

Compliance Information

Staff stated breakfast and snacks are provided by the service each day for the children in attendance. A hot meal is provided by an external catering company and re-constituted on site. Drinking water was available to the children at all times during the inspection.

Younger children were all provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time after dinner within their care rooms and staff reported that children were facilitated to sleep outside of this set time if required. Rest areas were available in each room to enable the children to take time away from the group as desired. Children were supported to be independent in their environment including using the toilet independently and cleaning up following meals and play. Adults used respectful language during interactions with the children and were

observed to be responsive to children’s individual care needs. Staff responded promptly to younger children’s cues for care and used gentle tones whilst speaking to the children at their level. Younger children’s nappies were changed regularly. Staff in the younger care rooms maintained a detailed log of children’s activities, diet, and sleep throughout the day and stated this is shared with parents upon collection.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available on the premises. The area was well resourced with a variety of play equipment and materials. The four care rooms were amply resourced, and all materials were made accessible to the children on low level shelving units, facilitating the children’s choices in play. Low level tables and chairs were available to the children in accordance with their age and size.

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

The inspectors found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps had been taken to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

Steps were implemented to ensure the safety of the children. The entry and exit points were secured to prevent children from leaving the service unattended or unauthorised individuals from gaining access. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

Each child was provided with their own bed linen, which staff stated was laundered weekly and stored individually between uses. Staff were aware of guidelines on exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses.

Administration of Medication:

Staff stated medications are not typically administered in the service, however, the person in charge demonstrated a clear understanding of procedures to safeguard children when administering medicine. This included ensuring written consent was obtained 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.

Safe Sleep:

Staff were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the rooms where children slept, and individual children's observations every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds 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. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A photocopying unit was located at a height on top of a shelf in the Toddler room. The shelving unit was not secured to the wall and was in reach of the children posing a risk of injury should the unit fall from a height.
2. A low-level press in the Montessori room contained multiple cleaning products. The press was unlocked and in reach of the children posing a risk of harm to a child.

Infection Control:

3. The nappy changing policy and associated practices in place in the service were inadequate to prevent cross contamination and the spread of infection as evidenced by the following;
 - A staff member did not consistently wash their hands between nappy changes and did not wear a protective apron whilst changing soiled nappies. The staff member was observed following nappy changing to be involved in food preparation. This was at variance with the nappy changing policy in place in the service which stated staff involved in nappy changing would not be involved in food preparation.
 - Children's hands were not washed following nappy changing.
 - The nappy changing mat was not consistently cleaned in between nappy changes.

- The staff members observed did not removed soiled gloves which had been worn during nappy changing before re-dressing children. The nappy changing policy in place in the service did not detail all the required steps to prevent cross contamination and prevent the spread of infection.
- 4. Some of the bins in use for disposal of waste in the Toddler, Montessori, and Pre-Montessori rooms were not pedal operated and were unlidded and in reach of the children posing a risk of cross contamination.
- 5. There were no paper towels available in the Montessori room for children to dry their hands following handwashing. Children were observed using facial and toilet tissues to dry hands which frayed and became stuck to their hands when drying.
- 6. The Montessori children's hands were not washed following outdoor play. This was at variance with the infection control policies in place in the service.
- 7. Children's soothers were not appropriately sterilised after use. Staff members reported they were rinsed with water after use which is ineffective for infection control purposes.
- 8. The handwash sinks in the children's bathrooms in the Montessori room were stained and soiled and required a deep clean.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. After the Tusla inspection the photocopier was moved to a smaller/lower sturdier unit. The service will ensure only secured units are used moving forward.
2. The low-level press in Montessori room containing cleaning products have all been removed and stored out of reach of children.

Infection Control:

3. The service had a staff meeting about the inspection outcome and have discussed the nappy changing policy and hygiene, going forward all staff will wear the aprons provided. Gloves will be changed before re-dressing a child, this has been updated in the nappy changing policy. A different member of staff will now prepare dinner to prevent cross contamination. Hand hygiene has also been corrected and the policy updated.
4. New pedal bins have been bought for all rooms and will be in place moving forward.
5. Paper towels have been filled in all dispensers in every room.

6. Hand washing and the importance of hygiene was discussed at the staff meeting after inspection. The policy has been updated, and children and staff are now washing hands at appropriate intervals.
7. Children now have their own soother box, and soothers are sterilised throughout the day as needed.
8. The handwash sinks in Montessori room got a deep clean and are no longer stained.

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 submitted by the registered provider will address the non-compliances.

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.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation*
- (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 fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in July 2025.
 - (b) There was a record to show that maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the fire detection and alarm system had taken place on the 21st July 2025.

Non-Compliance Information

- (4)
- The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were not displayed in the service on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider submitted the following response:

Corrective and Preventive Action

The fire drill procedures are now displayed on the back of every classroom door. These procedures will be practiced each month.

Supporting documentation submitted

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

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.