

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY282
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Name of Service:	St. Vincents ECDS Daughters of Charity
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Address of Service:	Ballyfermot & Palmerstown Primary Care, Ballyfermot, Dublin 10, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D10 C973
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Monson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/10/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	19
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L Magee
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
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Description of service

St Vincent's ECDS Daughters of Charity provides fulltime, part time and sessional care to children aged 0 to 6 years between 9 am – 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday between the months of September to July. The building is purpose built for childcare in the St. Vincent's Early Childhood Development Centre on the grounds of Ballyfermot Primary Care & Mental Health Centre Campus in Ballyfermot Dublin 10. There are 5 preschool rooms, a sensory room, a library, kitchen and office. The service has a large outdoor area divided into three different areas. There is a partially covered area for use in all weather conditions.

Staffing

The service employs 17 staff members. This includes the designated person in charge, 13 childcare employees, two domestic assistants and a chef. The registered provider does not 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 area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9(2) (a)(b)(c)(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment

11(1), (2), Staffing Levels

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

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

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 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.*

(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) The inspection focused on records for 12 staff members and a student who had started working in the service since the previous inspection dated 22 March 2022. Regulation 9(2)(c) was inspected for these 13 adults and a further four adults whose Garda vetting disclosure had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

(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 were available for seventeen adults. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was available and translated for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than 6 months as an adult.

(4) All new staff members held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

2(d) The early years inspector was unable to determine if one adult required police vetting as there was no record of a curriculum vitae on file for this adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service will ensure a Curriculum vitae is in the file and on their online system. Going forward the service will ensure all staff files are up to date with the relevant information and Curriculum Vitae.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service addresses the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on the next 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.

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working with the children when the inspector arrived unannounced at the service. There were 10 staff members working directly with 29 children. The person in charge and the deputy person in charge were available to provide break cover.

(2) The minimum adult to child ratio requirement for the age of children and type of service provided 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

1 (b) Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

The service has a chef who cooks all the food fresh for the children each day. The children ate and chatted together in the dining room for both breakfast and dinner. Additional food was available should any child ask for more or indicate that they were hungry. Milk and water were available for the children in the dining room and water was available throughout the day in the care rooms. Staff sat with the children during mealtimes and the children enjoyed a relaxed sociable environment where they had time to enjoy their food.

Staff were familiar with the needs of each child and communicated with the children using soft and gentle tones. Staff were observed caring for the children in a respectful manner during toileting and nappy changing. Nappy changing took place on a scheduled basis and when required.

Each care room had a designated time for outdoor play. Children were observed to enjoy time spent in the outdoor play area moving freely and engaging in different games with staff. The outdoor areas had a natural grass surface and a variety of equipment to support various forms of play. On the day of inspection, the children from the toddler room were observed enjoying time playing in the sensory room.

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:

Entry to the service was via secured external doors. This prevented children from accessing unsafe areas and prevented unauthorised adults entering the service and gaining access to the children.

Children were observed playing in the outdoor areas which were secured and safe for the children to use.

The storage facilities were out of reach or not accessible to the children. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

The service has an infection control policy which informs the day to day running of the service. This was observed as evidenced below:

Children were observed to wash their hands before meals, after outdoor play and after messy play activities.

The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and pedal operated bins. Staff were observed wearing gloves and aprons while carrying out nappy changing and staff were observed to wash the hands of the children and themselves after each nappy change.

Administration of Medication:

Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector. On the day of inspection, there were no children requiring regular or emergency medication.

Safe Sleep:

One child was observed to sleep in the service on the day of inspection. This child was physically monitored every ten minutes by staff while sleeping and these sleep checks were documented.

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Fire Safety:

Staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire. Regular fire drills were conducted in the service.