

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY283		
Name of Service:	Daughters of Charity, Goldenbridge Early Childhood Development Service		
Address of Service:	Emmett Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8.		
Eircode:	D08 X985		
Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Monson		
Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	25/04/2023		
No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM 12
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
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

Daughters of Charity, Goldenbridge Early Childhood Development Service is a not-for-profit organisation. This service is one of a few services operated by the Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service. The early years service is registered to provide full time, part-time and sessional care and education to pre-school children for children aged two to six years of age. The service operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Staffing

Six adults are employed in the service including the designated person in charge. An additional adult was present on a community employment scheme and a student was present on work placement.

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 inspections 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 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*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) and (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required. The designated person in charge was on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Since the last inspection on the 7 October 2021 no additional staff were employed by the service. On the day of inspection two adults were present, one was employed under a community employment scheme and a second adult was present on a student placement. These were the only two files reviewed as detailed below;

- (a)* Two validated written references were available from a past employer for one adult.
- (b)* A second adult had two written validated references from a source other than a past employer.
- (c)* Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for both adults.

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) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for full day care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were sixteen children attending the service being supervised by five staff members.

(8)(a) There were two adults on the premises at all times. The staff roster demonstrated that two adults are present at all times during the hours of operation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (h)* Details of the attendance of each child in the service were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.
- (i)* A staff roster was available.
- (j)* A sample of medication records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and completed appropriately.
- (k)* The service maintained a written record of accidents, injury or incidents involving a pre-school child.

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

(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)(a), (b) The inspector observed the following practices on the day of inspection:

Staff reported all that all meals including breakfast, snacks and a hot meal are provided daily by the service. A morning snack of pancakes, fresh fruit and yogurt was offered to the children. Drinking water was freely available and milk was offered with the snack. Children and staff sat together and enjoyed their snack in a relaxed and sociable environment. The hot meal on the menu for the day was chilli con carne and rice.

Staff encouraged and supported children to be independent. Older children went to the toilet independently while being closely supervised by staff. Younger children's nappies were changed as required. During this time staff were observed to communicate well with the children.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. The adults facilitated a play-based curriculum adopting the Highscope approach. Both the indoor and outdoor environment was carefully planned to provide children with different opportunities to work independently, make choices and to solve problems. Each of the pre-school rooms were organised into specific designated areas of interest to support children's involvement in activities such as building, pretending and role play, a reading area, writing and messy play with paint, sand and water. Each area was well stocked with a variety of natural, found, real-life and commercial materials which reflected the children's home, cultures and interests. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and were observed supporting children in their play.

Staff stated they have daily communication with parents as they bring and collect their children from the service. Parental involvement was evident on the notice board with photographic displays of families attending the St Patrick's day event at the service and a bake sale planned by the children. The service also uses a phone app to share additional information with parents.

All children had access to a safely secured outdoor area. Outdoor clothing was provided by the service. The children were observed to enjoy their time outdoors. A selection of equipment was available including bikes, a slide, cars, balls and chalk boards.

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:

- External doors were secured to prevent children from exiting the service unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely, and no hazards were observed on the day of inspection.
- The kitchen was inaccessible.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and a written record of daily cleaning was available.
- Sanitary areas were equipped with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels to facilitate hand washing. Children were observed to wash their hands after using the toilet, outdoor play and prior to eating.
- Pedal operated bins were provided for waste.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated an understanding of the procedure to follow in the event that a child may require medicine.
- A suitable medication record form was available to record any medication given. The medication form included parent's consent and a second staff member to witness the medication given.
- Emergency medication for one child with a specific medical condition was stored safely. When questioned staff were familiar with the child's care plan and how to administer the medication should it be required.

Fire Safety:

- Fire exits were unobstructed and the fire assembly point was marked.

Outing:

- A suitable outings policy was available for the conduct of outings. No outings took place on the day of 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) A person trained in first aid for children was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection. Staff had up to date First Aid Responder certificates that were valid until October 2023.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 16 March 2023.
- (b)* The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment were dated 30 March 2023 and 24 April 2023 for the smoke alarms.
- (4)* The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in conspicuous locations throughout the service