

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY322
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Name of Service:	Brighton Day Care
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Address of Service:	11 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D06 F224
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Name of Registered Provider:	Emma Shepard-MacDonnell
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/11/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	97	PM	86
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin.
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Inspection undertaken by:	N McEndoo and S Quigley
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Brighton Day Care is privately owned and has been operated by the current registered provider since 2019. The early years' service is registered to provide full day care, part-time and sessional care, for children aged 0-6 years. The service currently operates from 8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from an adapted period domestic dwelling in a residential area of Rathgar Dublin south city. There is a large garden area located to the rear of the building which the children have access to play. On the day of inspection care was delivered across twelve rooms; there was one internal sleep room located adjacent to the baby room.

Staffing

There are 30 adults employed in the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection 27 adults worked directly with the children. There were two contract workers present on the day also.

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/ premises and facilities. 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(s) 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

(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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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,*
- (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

(1)

The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.

(2)

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that 12 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. All new staff members worked directly with the children. In addition, Garda vetting for three staff members whose disclosure were identified as due for renewal was requested for review.

The 12 files for new staff were reviewed, and the following information was noted.

- (a) 24 written validated references from past employers for 12 of the adults.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all adults.
- (d) Police vetting from the police authorities in another state was available for 11 adults who had lived outside the state for a period of six consecutive months or more.

(3)

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

(4)

12 of the adult files reviewed, evidenced they held a major award at level 5 or above in early childhood care and education on the national qualification framework, or qualifications deemed by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE) to meet the regulatory requirement.

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)

On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(2)

The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained at all times throughout the inspection.

(8)

The registered provider ensured that there were always at least two adults on the premises when children were present in the service as evidenced in a sample review of attendance records.

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

(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

- The service promoted healthy eating, food and snacks were observed to be provided at regular intervals throughout the day. The younger children had the opportunity to feed themselves, appropriate to the age and stage of their development, with bibs being worn where needed.
- Nappy changing was carried out regularly and when required. The interaction during nappy changing was observed to be handled in a positive manner, with staff using the moment as an opportunity for one-to-one communication with the child.
- On the day of inspection, the weather was cold and damp. The children had access to a large outdoor area to the rear of the premises, offering a change of environment and an opportunity for energetic play. The children were observed to be appropriately dressed in layered attire reflecting an understanding of the seasonal requirements whilst maintaining their comfort.
- A scheduled sleep time was observed for the older preschool children who required a rest period, whilst the younger children's individual sleep needs were met when required. Children who did not require sleep were offered an alternative activity.
- Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of the children in their care, responding to cues promptly. A child who was not settling was given comfort and offered distraction by way of positively managing the situation. The staff members remained on the floor and engaged in the play until the child was content.
- The staff members were observed to work well as a team with frequent communication observed between them and between management. Good communication and partnership with parents were also observed between staff and parents on collection time and with 'Scoopie the Sloth', the class teddy who would spend the weekend in a different Childs home each week.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

All hot meals within the service are supplied by an external company. The hot meals are reheated by staff onsite. Meals were observed to be nutritious and varied throughout the day. The main meal of the day was a chilli beef with potato cubes. All snacks are supplied by parents and arrives to the service in the morning in the children's lunch bag, perishable food is ready to be stored in the fridge. On the day of inspection, an adequate amount of food was available to each child. Water was available to children with their meals. Should a child refuse a meal, an alternative is provided from the remaining food within the child's lunchbox and snacks.

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:

- The main entrance was found to be secured on arrival preventing unauthorised access or exit from the premises.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Warm running water was available for hand washing at a temperature below 43°C.
- Cleaning products and equipment were stored out of the reach of children.
- Highchairs within the baby room were fitted with a 5-point safety harness and were in good sate of repair.
- The outdoor area was secured with tall wooden fencing and a bolted gate.

Infection Control:

- There was adequate handwashing facilities provided throughout the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels. Older children were observed to wash their hands with support, before snacks, meals and after nappy changing.
- Aprons and gloves were available and observed in use by staff when changing of a child was required.

- Sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean. The sanitary facilities were observed to be ventilated by openable windows, and by mechanical vent where no windows were present.
- Tables were observed to be cleaned prior to and after mealtimes.
- Foot pedal bins were observed throughout the premises.

Administration of Medication:

- When discussed with staff, they were aware of their responsibilities for the safe administration of medication. No medication was observed to be administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The service had a designated sleep room with appropriate cots available to children from the baby room and toddler room.
- Suitable floor beds were available for a dedicated sleep time for children over two years of age.
- Sleep checks were observed to be carried out at regular intervals.

Fire Safety:

- Fire doors were observed to be unobstructed throughout the service.
- Fire evacuation procedures were clearly displayed on the walls.
- Fire extinguishers were on the premises and easily accessible.