

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY339		
Name of Service:	Sharon's Playgroup & Montessori		
Address of Service:	1 Florence Terrace Leeson Park Avenue Ranelagh Dublin 6		
Eircode:	D06 PW57		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sharon McDonald		
Service type:	Part Time, Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	27/01/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM 4
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Tulsa-Child and Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive County Dublin A96P3Y6		
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

This private childcare service was established in 1998 by the current registered provider and care is provided on a part-time basis for children aged two to six years of age. The hours of operation are between 08:30hrs and 13:30hrs; a concurrent sessional service is offered from 08:30hrs to 12:30hrs.

The early years service is located in the registered provider private residence in an urban residential area of Ranelagh Dublin 6. Care of the children is facilitated in one care room. Sanitary facilities are provided off the Montessori room and an outdoor area is available for the children to the rear of the premises

Staffing

The registered provider works 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

The inspection was *unannounced* and focused on the area of *governance, record of pre-school child, health, welfare and development of child and safety.*

Compliance was assessed under the regulations detailed.

Regulation 9 (1) (a), (b) (2) (a)-(d) & (4) – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 (1), (2) and (8)(a)– Staffing Levels

Regulation 15 - Record of a Pre-School Child

Regulation 19 (1)(a) – Health Welfare and Development of Child

Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a) &(b) – Fire Aid

Regulation 26(1), (2)(a), (b) & (4) – Fire Safety

The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of Pre-School 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 registered provider 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

(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)

- (a) The registered provider was the person in charge and there was a named person to deputise if required.
- (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived and remained on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Since the previous inspection dated 17 November 2021, no new staff have been employed in the service. On last inspection the staff file viewed for the registered provider met the Regulatory requirement of Regulation 9(2)(a), (b), (c) and (4).

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána were available and reviewed for the registered provider and for four adults who live in this private residence and have access to the children. All Garda vetting disclosures were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice.

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 part-time day-care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were seven children attending the service being supervised by four adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

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) A sample of five records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
 - (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
 - (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
 - (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
 - (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
 - (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
 - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
 - (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
 - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

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

19(1) (a)

Children were observed eating healthy snacks which were provided by parents. Snack time was relaxed and sociable children sat together and engaged in conversation. Good hygiene practices were observed all children were supervised washing their hands prior to eating their snack. Drinking water was freely available. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently.

The routine and play experiences in the service were observed to be child led, children were visibly calm, familiar with their caregiver and engaged in their play throughout the session. The registered provider was observed to use soft tones and gentle, respectful language during all interaction with children. The children had access to designated areas of interest enabling freedom to play and explore. Examples included tabletop activities, a home corner, dress up and a rest area. Each area was suitably resourced. Children had access to an outdoor play area on the premises. Outdoor play was included in the daily timetable.

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 registered provider was trained in first aid for children and at all times was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.
- (2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored, easily accessible and available at all times to the children attending the pre-school.

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) There was a written record of monthly fire drills carried out. The last fire drill was completed on 17 December 2024.
- (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced on the 5 April 2024 the Smoke alarm was serviced on the 15 March 2024.
- (4) A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position on the wall in the Montessori room.