

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL055
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Name of Service:	Castleknock Day Nursery
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Address of Service:	1 Stockston Park, Castleknock, Dublin 15
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Eircode:	D15 TH5C
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marcella O'Grady
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	11/03/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	11	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Area 1 2 nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Nelson
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

Castleknock Day Nursery is a sessional care service located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 16 children aged 3 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 12.00pm during term time.

Castleknock Day Nursery operates from a building to the side of a residential dwelling and has one care room. There are sanitary facilities located off the hallway to the side of the care room.

Staffing

The registered provider employs two staff members to work in the service, including a relief staff member to provide cover where needed and support the administration of the service. There were three staff present on the day of the inspection including the registered provider.

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 outdoor area was not inspected on the day of the inspection.

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

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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, 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-
- (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.

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that;
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) Documentary evidence showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (2) Following a review of the roster and conversation with the registered provider, it was established there were no staff new to the service since the last inspection held on the 21 June 2023 when all staff files were

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reviewed. Three Garda vetting disclosures which our records showed had expired since the last inspection were reviewed as part of the inspection.

- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

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.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

- (1) On the day of inspection there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their care needs.
- (3) The adult to child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Two staff were allocated to work directly with 11 children. There was a relief staff member available to provide cover when needed.

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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.*

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (c) an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that of the 11 records reviewed the following was maintained in each record:

- (a) The name and date of birth for each child was available for the 11 files reviewed.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) Each of the 11 files reviewed were of children still currently attending.
- (d) The relevant contact details for parents and or guardians were available.
- (e) Authorisation to collect a child.
- (f) Relevant details relating to the health and care of a child.
- (g) The contact details of the child's doctor.
- (h) The child's immunisation record.
- (i) Written consent for emergency medical treatment if required.

(3)

- (c) All the records requested were available for review by the inspector on the day of the inspection.

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Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

The service ensured there was adequate and suitable furniture and equipment available, for example:

- The furniture and equipment in the rooms were observed to be adequate for the number of children and was appropriate for their age range and stage of development.
- The furniture and equipment were well maintained, durable and easy to clean.
- The toys and equipment were laid out on low level shelving, visible to the children, and were organised and displayed in a manner making them easily accessible to the children.
- There was a variety of play materials and equipment available to the children including mark-making, threading, sorting, stacking and books. These facilitated a range of play experiences.

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 following was observed to be in place to safeguard children:

General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secured when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service. Entry was monitored and managed by the staff which restricted unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.
- All shelving units in the care room were observed to be secured to the wall, ensuring stability.
- Blind cords were secured and the window had restrictors fitted.
- Staff were observed to position themselves around the room ensuring adequate supervision.
- Staff were observed to support children to tidy up their toys from the floor to ensure walkways were kept clear of any trip risk.
- There were no trailing flexes or hazardous items observed to be accessible to the children.

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Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, single use hand towels and thermostatically controlled warm water was available at the wash hand basin used by the children and the staff members.
- Children's snack from home was observed to be appropriately refrigerated.
- Children were observed to hand wash before snack time.

Fire Safety:

- The emergency evacuation procedures were clearly displayed in the care room, and all exit doors were observed to be unobstructed.
- All the children present were observed to be recorded in the attendance book. Accurately accounting for the number of children present facilitates the safe evacuation of children in the event of an emergency.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for the three adults. However, these vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. No preventative or preventive actions were submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

This regulation remains non-compliant as the registered provider did not submit a response.

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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

- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
- (a) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in the care room in a visible and accessible location out of reach of children.
 - (b) The first aid box was readily available.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) There was no documentary evidence available to demonstrate that a person trained to First Aid Responder level was available to the children attending the service during the operational hours of the service. It is acknowledged that a staff member was trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

No preventative or preventive actions were submitted.

Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

Summary Comment

This regulation remains non-compliant as the registered provider did not submit a response.