

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

**TUSLA Identifier:** TU2015FL081

**Name of Service:** Daisy Days Montessori

**Address of Service:** 42 Whitestown Walk, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

**Eircode:** D15 AN2K

**Name of Registered Provider:** Laura Day

**Service type:** Sessional

**Date of Inspection:** 08/05/2025

**No of pre-school children:** AM 09 PM N/A

**Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:** Early Years Inspectorate  
2nd Floor, Unit 4/5  
The Nexus Building  
Blanchardstown Corporate Park  
Ballycoolin  
Dublin 15 | D15 CF9K

**Inspection undertaken by:** L Jameson

**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

Daisy Days Montessori is located in a residential area of Dublin 15 and is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 14 children aged 2 to 6 years old, Monday to Friday. The service is registered to provide sessional care from 9.30am to 12.30pm and as a registered school aged childcare service in the afternoon. Daisy Days Montessori operates from a converted residential dwelling and currently has one care room on the ground floor of the premises. There is a kitchen, and sanitary facilities located on this floor. A fully enclosed outdoor area is located to rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and employs three early years educators, one of whom is the deputy person in charge, to work directly with the children. On the day of inspection, the deputy person in charge and one early year's educator were present when the inspector arrived unannounced in the service, the registered provider arrived shortly after and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

### 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 and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 16(1)(h)(j)(k) Record in Relation to a Pre School Service.

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, deputy 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,*

- (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

- (1)
- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as needed.
  - (b) The deputy person in charge was present when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and at all times during the operational hours of the service on the day of inspection.
  - (c) The service had a clear management structure and staff members were aware of their own role and responsibilities.
- (2) The registered provider currently employs three adults. The full staff record of the registered provider, the deputy person in charge, two staff members and one external contractor were reviewed. From the five files that were reviewed:
- (a) Two written and verified references were available for two adults from past employers.
  - (b) One written and verified reference was available for one adult from a source other than a past employer.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for four adults employed in the service and one external contractor. 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.
- (4) Three adults employed to work directly with the children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Affairs.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) Four written references were available for three adults from past employers; however, documentary evidence was not available to confirm a validation check had been completed. This posed a potential risk to children.
  - (b) Three written references were available for three adults from sources other than past employers, however, documentary evidence was not available to confirm a validation check had been completed. This posed a potential risk to children.
  - (d) International police vetting was not available for one adult who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six consecutive months or more as an adult. This posed a potential risk to children.
- (4) Documentation was not available to demonstrate that one adult who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. It is acknowledged that a qualification certificate was available however it could not be established that this was an approved qualification. This posed a potential risk to children.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a) (b) Management have updated and validated all references and will carry out regular checks to ensure compliance. Management will ensure that new staff members will have two validated references on file prior to commencing in the service.
  - (d) Management have requested international police vetting for one adult and will ensure that all staff have relevant police vetting checks on file going forward.
- (4) One adult has enrolled in a QQI Level 5 course, due to commence on the 24th June 2025, and will not work directly with children until the minimum required qualification has been obtained but will complete work experience in the service and continue to work in the afterschool. Management will ensure that all staff have the minimum required qualification prior to commencement in the service.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)

(a)(b) Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

(d) No evidence submitted. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

(4) Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b) and (4). The non-compliance under (2)(d) remains outstanding as the inspectorate have not received evidence of police vetting and will be reviewed 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.*

*(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) There were a sufficient number of staff members working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

There were three staff members, including the registered provider, working with nine children on the morning of the inspection.

(3) The adult child ratios were maintained for the duration of the inspection.

### 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;*

*(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.*

*(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Details of attendance by each pre-school child were stored in the children’s attendance record in the care room.
  - (j) A medication administration book was readily available for use in the service, however the registered provider and staff members confirmed that no medication had been administered to a child in the service since the previous inspection, dated 16/10/2024.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (k) The registered provider did not ensure a full record in writing for accidents and incidents was maintained. Three accident and incident records dated after the previous inspection were available for review, the following information was missing:
- One form did not contain a parent’s signature or a manager’s signature.
  - One form did not contain a parent’s signature, a manager’s signature or information detailing the staff member completing the form.
  - One form did not contain the date of the incident or the child’s date of birth.

This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection, dated 16/10/2024.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (k) All forms have been updated with the missing information. Management will ensure all accident and incident forms are fully completed with the required information.

## Supporting documentation submitted

(k) No evidence submitted.

## Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 16. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

## 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

### Basic needs:

- Staff members were observed to use positive and respectful language on the day of inspection. Children's achievements were reinforced with praise and recognition.
- Staff members were observed to tend to children's individual personal needs promptly, offering discreet supervision for toileting and assisting with hand washing and blowing noses.
- Mealtimes were observed to be a sociable and pleasant event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and interactions.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- There was a clear sense of familiarity between staff members and the children. Children appeared content and comfortable in their environment with staff members demonstrating knowledge of the children's individual and specific needs as required.
- The children were encouraged to follow their own interests, staff members promoted independence and decision making, offering support to the children if required.
- Staff members played with and supported the children during activities. On the day of inspection, the children were observed to have freedom to move throughout the care room and outdoor play area, taking part in activities of their choice and at their own pace.

- Staff members were observed to communicate with parents and guardians through discussion and informal chats at drop off and collection times.

### Physical and material environment:

- Child sized tables and chairs were available to the children in the care room, facilitating a comfortable area to eat meals and take part in tabletop activities.
- Equipment and materials in the care room were in good working order. Materials including jigsaws and puzzles, construction toys, animals, a home corner with supporting equipment, a cosy area and a selection of books were available to the children, facilitating a range of play and learning experiences and promoting imaginative play.
- An enclosed outdoor play area was available for the children. The equipment and toys included a mud kitchen, a climbing frame, balance beams, a wobbly bridge and a slide.
- On the day of inspection, the children were observed to use the outdoor play area, taking part in a variety of sensory play activities, such as a sand and water. A compost area was also available to the children.
- A section of the outdoor play area was covered in, providing a space for children to play outside in all weathers.

## 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 entrance door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- Flexes and cords were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.

### Infection Control:

- The service was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and hand paper towels. Staff members were observed to support children with handwashing at regular intervals throughout the day, for example, after outdoor play and toileting and before mealtimes.
- Lunches were stored in the fridge to ensure perishable items were kept cool.
- A foot operated pedal bin was used in the care room, reducing the risk from repeated touch of surfaces.

### Administration of Medication:

- Anti febrile medication was observed to be in date, stored in the correct packaging and out of the children's reach. No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

### Fire Safety:

- The emergency fire exits were clear and unobstructed on the day of inspection.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

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

#### Infection Control:

2. Toilet rolls in the sanitary accommodation were not hygienically dispensed and were observed to be stored on top of the toilet units, this posed a risk of cross contamination.
3. A bin which required the children to touch the lid to dispose of contaminated waste was observed in both sanitary accommodations, resulting in repeated touch to a surface and increasing the risk of cross contamination.

#### Fire Safety:

4. The children's attendance records were not maintained in a timely manner. On the day of inspection, the inspector reviewed the attendance record at 09:47am. There were no children marked in on the attendance record; however, 9 children were present in the service. This may prevent the safe evacuation of the children in the event of an emergency. This was a non-compliance on the previous inspection, dated 16/10/2024.
5. The fire drill records indicated that fire drills were not carried out on a regular basis. The previous three fire drills took place on the 11/04/2025, 17/10/2024 and 14/11/2023. The frequency of fire drills is not

sufficient to support and prepare staff members and children in the event of an emergency evacuation, posing a potential risk of injury.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. A Garda vetting renewal application has been submitted for two staff members with an updated Garda vetting disclosure having been received in respect of one staff member. The registered provider will renew all staff vetting within the 3-year timeframe outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Infection Control:

2. The toilet roll dispensers will be checked daily and refilled as needed.
3. Foot operated pedal bins have been purchased and placed in both bathrooms. Management will ensure that foot operated pedal bins are in use in all areas of the service going forward.

#### Fire Safety:

4. Management will ensure that the attendance records are filled in first thing in the morning to ensure the safety of children in event of any emergencies.
5. Fire drills will be completed on a monthly basis and recorded by a member of staff. Management have purchased a new fire drill record book for use in the service.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. Documentation in relation to the above has been reviewed.

#### Infection Control:

2. No evidence submitted.
3. Photographic evidence in relation to the above has been reviewed.

#### Fire Safety:

4. No evidence submitted.
5. No evidence submitted.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliances under Regulation 23. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

### 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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 11/04/2025.
  - (b) A record was kept of the maintenance of the fire extinguishers in the premises which was certified as having been serviced most recently on 05/03/2025.
- (4) The evacuation procedure was conspicuously displayed in the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be conducted in the event of a fire or emergency. Staff members were familiar with the emergency evacuation procedure and route.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (1) (b) Documentary evidence was not available to demonstrate a maintenance check had been carried out on the smoke alarms in the service in the previous twelve months.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) (b) The smoke alarm system was serviced the day after the inspection. Management have arranged for maintenance checks to be carried out by an external contractor on a 6-monthly basis.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) (b) Documentation has been reviewed in relation to the above.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken by the registered provider are sufficient to address the non-compliance under Regulation 26.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

*A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.*

### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was adequately insured to reflect the type of care provided. The insurance certificate had an expiry date of 27 March 2026.