

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY137
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Einsteins
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Corrandrum N.S., Corrandrum, Claregalway, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 AD85
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise Madden
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	13/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	0
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.
<b>Title:</b>	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

The service operates a sessional service from 09:00 am to 12 pm, Monday to Friday and can cater for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. The sessional service operates out of an adapted playroom in Corrandrum national school outside Claregalway. The service consists of a playroom and sanitary accommodation. The service has an outdoor area to the side of the service and children have access to outdoor play in a secured outdoor play area. In inclement weather children also have access to the hall in the school. Private parking is provided at the side of the premises.

### Staffing

There are 3 adults working in the service which includes the register provider. The adults working directly with the children in the service have completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education above the minimum requirement of a level 5.

### 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.

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, 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*
- (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 registered provider was the named designated person in charge. There was a named person who could deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present in the service for the duration of the inspection.

All 3 staff files were reviewed:

(2)(a) There were 1 written, validated references from past employers available in respect of the 3 adults working in the service.

(b) There were 5 validated references on file in respect of the 3 adults were from a source other than the previous past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 3 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) No staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and did not required police vetting for that jurisdiction.

(4) The registered provider ensured that all adults working directly with children had a major award of a minimum of FETAC level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained, there were 3 adults working in the service with 12 pre-school children.

### 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)

##### Basic Needs

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service. Childrens snacks were observed to be healthy which included fruit, sandwiches, cheese and yogurts. The atmosphere during mealtimes was relaxed, with pleasant social interaction among the children and staff.
- Perishable items belonging to children were stored in a designated fridge.

- The tables and chairs were suitable for the children's ages and stages of development.
- All children attending the service was toilet trained and were independent at toileting or were supported by adults as required throughout the session.
- Children were encouraged and supported to develop self-help and personal hygiene skills.
- A soft seated area was provided in the playroom for children to relax or rest during the session.
- All the children had opportunities to move about freely and explore their environment, both indoors and outdoors.

### Supporting Relationships

- Parents and Guardians are verbally provided with daily information on their child's experiences in the preschool including the child's likes, interests and preferences and play activities engaged in.
- Communication with parents is via a multi media application, phone calls or at collection time from the service.
- The theme of the week was settling in and making new friends. Children were observed singing songs and reading story books in circle time in relation to the theme.
- The staff present on the day of the inspection showed kindness - were caring, supportive and reassuring whilst caring for the children.
- Adults were observed to be caring in their interactions with children, pick up on their cues for support and spoke in a soft tone of voice to the children.
- Adults shared with parents and guardians by sharing knowledge and observations of the child's interests, strengths, developmental and care needs, approaches to learning, changes in their life, and any other concerns.

## 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.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

The water was not thermostatically controlled and was cold in the children's sanitary area. The water temperature was recorded at 17.1 ° C, this was a previous non-compliance on the 02/06/2022.

#### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective & Preventive Action

The registered provider stated in their response:

##### Infection Control:

Hot water will now be provided all year round for preschool children. A plumber was sourced and repairs were carried out. A daily risk assessment will be carried out by the service to ensure hot water is available for effective hand washing.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

##### Infection Control:

A letter was submitted from the plumber, principal and a risk assessment for hot water.

#### Summary Comment

On review of the documentation submitted to the Early Years Inspectorate it has been deemed that the service has now met the requirements of this part of the regulations.

## 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 service provided evidence that a person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. One adult had current training in first aid responder for children.

(2)(a) There was a first aid box in the playroom, with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.

(b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

### 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 of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was the May 2024 and documented monthly fire drills were available.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated June 2023.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service on the June 2023.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had in date adequate insurance for a 24 preschool children on a sessional basis which is valid to 27/03/2025.