

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015MN061
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Upsie Daisies Pre- School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Glen Road, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H18 WE20
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Arlene McIntyre
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Dates of Inspection:</b>	9/12/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	22	PM	Not applicable.
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate Child Wellbeing Centre Castleblayney Co. Monaghan
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Y. Kelly and D. Duffy
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector Inspection and Registration Manager

### 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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not Applicable
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### Description of service

Upsie Daisies Preschool is a privately owned service in operation since 2012. The service provides a full day care, part-time and sessional service to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. It caters for a maximum of 28 children and opening hours are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme between the hours of 9am to 12pm. The service operates from a converted industrial building in the town of Monaghan. The premises consists of two rooms, the toddler room and the preschool room, a kitchen area and sanitary accommodation. There is a secure outdoor play area to the front of the premises.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs a total of four adults including the person in charge and three adults who work directly with the children. The registered provider works in the service overseeing the day to day operation of the service and also works directly with the children. There were four adults present on the day of the inspection including the registered provider, the person in charge, and two adults working directly with the children.

### Methodology

Tusla 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 the child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The following regulations were reviewed:

Regulation 9 (1)(2)(4) Management and Recruitment.

Regulation 11 (1)(2) Staffing Levels.

Regulation 19 (1a) Health, Welfare and Development of the Child.

Regulation 22 Food and Drink.

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of Child.

Regulation 25 First Aid.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the two care rooms: the toddler room and the pre-school room. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under: Regulation 19 and Regulation 23.

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 inspectors 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,
- (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 designated person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service. The registered provider arrived shortly after the commencement of the inspection.

(c) The service had a clear management structure in place with clear roles and responsibilities outlined.

(2) A review of the roster and conversation with management showed that the registered provider employed four adults to work in the service. The files of the registered provider and four adults were reviewed, and the following was recorded.

(a) Four written and verified references were available from past employers.

- (b) Six written and verified references were available from a reputable source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all staff, the registered provider and for the four adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) International Police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside of the state for six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that the registered provider and four adults who work directly with the children 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.

### 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 the inspection there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service to meet their care needs. There were three adults caring for 22 children on the morning of the inspection.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that the correct adult to child ratios were maintained in the service.
- Toddler Room: there was one adult caring for six children aged 2 years to 4 years of age in the morning.
  - Pre-school Room: there were two adults caring for sixteen children aged 3 years to 4 years in the morning.
- (8) The registered provider ensured that there are 2 adults on the premises at all times.

### 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

(1)(a) Each child's learning and development and wellbeing was facilitated within the preschool in the following ways:

#### Basic needs:

- Children brought snacks and lunches from home. Water bottles were kept in the hallway which the children could access during the day if needed. Children were observed to sit together and chatted socially during this time and staff offered help to children when needed.
- The registered provider discussed that there were beds in the service if required for children to sleep. There was a sofa in the pre-school room and toddler room for the children to relax in as required.
- There was a care plan displayed in the kitchen for administration of medication and staff were aware of medication administration plan which had been discussed with parents.
- Staff were respectful to the children during nappy changing times, staff used soft tones and caring interactions were observed with the children. The same staff member was observed changing children's nappies to support consistency for the children.
- Children's independence was supported. Children were encouraged to wash hands independently. There was a child sized sink in the pre-school room with photographs of children washing their hands at the children's level.

#### Supporting relationships:

- Staff were observed engaging in warm and caring interactions with the children.
- The staff communicate information about the service with parents by sending letters to parents. Staff reported that parents are invited into the service occasionally to discuss their occupations with the children. People from the local community are also invited into the service and a staff member discussed that a local librarian would be visiting the service to read a story to the children.

### **Physical and Material Environment:**

- The furniture provided in the rooms was low level and appropriate to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in the care rooms. Toys and equipment were visible and accessible to children on low level shelving which facilitated children's independence in play.
- The care rooms were divided into different areas of interest which provided opportunities for a variety of spontaneous play experiences and choice for the children. These interest areas included: home corner/kitchen area, construction area, arts and crafts shelf, sofa and bookshelf. There was also a doctors surgery, office and Dress up area to support dramatic and pretend play. In addition, there were art materials such as paint, paint brushes, aprons, paper, scissors, crayons and pencils to support children's creativity and mark making. Playdough and playdough materials provided opportunities for sensory play. There were tabletop materials such as threading, jigsaws and pegboards to support fine motor development. Small world items included a dolls house and farm animals. In the construction area, there were blocks, high visibility jackets and hats for construction and early numeracy.
- There were labels to denote interest areas and signs in the construction area which promoted emergent literacy in the service.
- Children's artwork and photographs of the children were displayed which supported children's identity and belonging in the service.
- There were real life items such as a telephone and pots and pans to support dramatic and pretend play for children and early numeracy items such as a cash register and large wooden blocks.
- Children were observed playing in the outdoor play area. In the outdoor play area, there was a sand pit, cars, bikes, footballs, petrol pump and blocks. Children were engaged in sand play with buckets and spades which provided opportunities for sensory development and playing on bikes which promoted gross motor and fundamental movement skills. Children were appropriately dressed for the cold weather.

### **Programme of Activities:**

- Staff discussed that there is a theme of the week and children's ideas, observations and art work are documented in children's scrapbooks.
- Children's experiences are documented and displayed in the preschool room, for example photographs of the children meeting the Gardai were displayed. Different occasions are celebrated such as pyjama day. The staff and the children discussed the plan for this for the following day.

- Children’s language development was supported in the service with storytelling observed during the inspection.

### 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

The service ensured that there was adequate and suitable food and drinks available. For example:

- Snacks and dinners are provided by the parents and are stored in the fridge in the kitchen. Children’s dinners are reheated by the staff to provide hot meals for the children daily which included pasta and stew.
- There were regular mealtimes throughout the day which included snack time at 10.30am, dinner at 1pm and snack at 4pm. On the day of the inspection, the children were observed at snack time eating sandwiches, breadsticks, crackers and cheese, yoghurts, rice cakes, and fruit to include apples, mandarins and strawberries.
- Children had their own water bottles and the registered reported that these are kept on the hallway and children can access these throughout the day as needed. There was a water dispenser in the kitchen.
- The mealtime experience was observed to be a leisurely sociable occasion, where children sat together and chatted.

### 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 registered provider ensured the following measures were in place to safeguard children attending the service:

#### General Safety:

- On arrival to the service, the inspectors observed that the door was secure and monitored by staff. There was a visitors’ book for all visitors to sign upon entry to the service.
- The blind cords were observed to be secured in the care rooms.

- Cleaning agents were stored safely and not accessible to children and were kept securely in a separate storage room.
- The outdoor play area was securely gated and fenced.

### Infection Control:

- Children's lunches which were brought from home, were refrigerated to prevent spoiling of perishable items.
- The sanitary area and pre-school room were equipped with liquid soap and dispensed towels. Children were observed to hand wash throughout the morning, and this was encouraged and supported by staff.
- During nappy changing, staff were observed to use disposable aprons and disposable gloves.
- Pedal operated bins were available for disposal of contaminated items.
- Adults were observed cleaning tables and sweeping floors after snack time.

### Administration of Medication:

- There were health care plans available and displayed in the kitchen for children who required them. Staff were aware of the care plans in place and the procedure to be followed in the event of a medical emergency and records were kept.

### Safe Sleep:

- There were three stackable beds available to facilitate sleep for children. There were two sofa beds available in each care room to provide a space for the children to relax.

### Fire Safety:

- The fire evacuation procedure was displayed on the wall. This helped to ensure the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.
- Emergency exits were unobstructed.

### 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 ensured that an adequate number of staff were trained in First Aid Response (FAR) and a staff member trained in FAR was available on the premises throughout the opening hours of the service.
- (2)(a)(b) An adequately stocked first aid box was observed in the service. This was stored out of the reach of the children but available to staff as needed.