

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015TY021
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Name of Service:	Daisy's Montessori
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Address of Service:	Clonmore Rd, Templemore, Co Tipperary
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Eircode:	E41 F226
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sinead Conroy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/03/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	10	PM	-
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	North Tipperary Civic Offices, Limerick Road, Nenagh, Co Tipperary, E45 A099
Inspection undertaken by:	L McGeeney
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	N/A
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Description of service

This sessional service was established in 2007 to provide care and education to children aged between 2 and 6 years old. The service is operated Monday to Friday, 9.15am to 12.15pm for 38 weeks of the year. Places are funded under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme for eligible children.

The service is operated from a room in a detached dormer premises outside the town of Templemore in north Tipperary. The premises was purpose built and is part residential and part early years service. The children have access to a large activity room, sanitary accommodation and a large enclosed outdoor play area at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider works with the children in the service each day as a lone worker. There is a list of emergency contacts that the registered provider can call on if needed.

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/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(2)(4), 11(1)(3)(8), 15(1)(3), 20, 21, 22, 24(1)(3), 25 and 28. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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

(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

The staff file of the registered provider and primary emergency contact person were reviewed as part of the inspection process:

(2)(a) Written references from past employers, with validations where required, were available in respect of both staff.

(b) Not applicable as all available references were from past employers.

(c) Garda vetting had been carried out in respect of both members of staff and relevant documents were kept on file.

(d) Police vetting had been carried out in respect of one member of staff who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six consecutive months.

(4) The registered provider held a recognised qualification in early childhood care and education at level 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) There were 10 children aged between 2.5 and 5 years old being supervised by the registered provider on the morning of the inspection.

(3) The adult to child ratio was maintained within the requirements of 1 adult to 11 children on the day of the inspection.

(8)(c) There was a named person who was familiar with the service and available to provide assistance in an emergency. In the event that this person was unavailable, the registered provider had a list of five additional persons who could be called on to give assistance in an emergency.

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

The completed registration forms of the 11 children enrolled in the service were assessed as part of the inspection process:

(1) The registration forms contained the information required, as detailed under parts (a) to (i) of this regulation.

(3)(c) The registration forms were available on the premises for inspection by an authorised person.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The children had daily access to both indoor and outdoor environments. The indoor space consisted of a large rectangular room that was well resourced and laid out in a number of designated interest areas to support the children's self-directed exploration and learning through play. Some of the interest areas were temporary and

reflected the children’s current interests and life experiences. For example, on the day of inspection a ‘baby clinic’ had been set up in the centre of the room where the children were weighing, washing, dressing and caring for their baby dolls. This interest had been prompted by the experiences of one of the children who was anticipating the arrival of a new sibling very soon and was very excited by this.

Other interest areas included: Montessori and practical life area, arts and crafts area, imaginative play areas such as the home corner, shop, pet clinic, beauty parlour, small world areas, construction areas, reading and cosy area, puzzle area and sensory play areas.

(b) The children could rest in the cosy area when they needed time away from activities. This space was furnished with child sized sofas and a floor rug, with shelves of books beside it.

(3)(a) There was a large, enclosed garden at the back of the premises that was divided into three distinct areas, two of which were used by the children on the day of inspection. The area directly outside the back door from the activity room had tarmac and soft fall surfaces and was used for riding vehicles, swinging, climbing, sliding and imaginative play equipment. The second area had a bark mulch surface and a covered area over planting boxes, sand and water play. The third area had a grass surface. The third space was only used in dry weather.

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 was very well equipped with suitable furniture, play and work resources. There were child sized tables and chairs both indoors and outdoors as well as adult seating. The toys and materials were displayed on open shelving units and units with sliding drawers. Most materials were within the reach of the children with resources such as seasonal items and additional puzzles, books or art supplies stored on higher shelves until they were needed. Notice boards were available to display important information as well as the children’s artwork and photos.

There was a large amount and variety of quality toys and learning resources, which were well maintained.

Outdoor equipment included bicycles, push toys, tractors, balance bikes and bubble cars; playhouses, a swing set, two wooden ships for climbing and imaginative play, mud kitchen, planting boxes, fairy garden, bird feeders, ramp bridge, balance logs, large wall mounted blackboard, timber stepping stone, rocker and digging area. There was a storage shed for the outdoor toys.

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 had a healthy eating policy. The children brought a packed lunch to eat during the morning. Children brought drink bottles that were available to them on a shelf in the room when they wanted a drink. These were refilled with water when required. Foods eaten on the day of inspection included: sandwiches, rice cakes, crackers, brown bread, bread sticks, dried fruit and nuts, yoghurt drinks, fromage frais and fruit (blueberries, apples and mandarins).

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(i) pre-school child attending the service,

(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,

(iii) an employee, or

(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider was responsible for recording the arrival and departure times of the children. There was a weekly record sheet used for this purpose.

(3) The registered provider met visitors to the service at the entrance door before allowing them access to the service is appropriate.

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 held current certification in first aid responder (FAR) valid until 12 June 2025.

(2)(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available in the service and easy to access when required.

(b) The first aid box was available if required by a child attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had current insurance cover for a sessional service for up to 11 children attending at any one time, valid until 27 March 2026.