

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX040
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Name of Service:	Daisy Daycare Creche
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Address of Service:	Unit 30 Woodbine Business Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sarah Coady Egan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Dates of Inspection:	16/10/2024
	17/10/2024

No of pre-school children:	AM	32	PM	15
		29		N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Wexford.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Mc Garry
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

Daisy Day Care is a privately operated service which is registered to provide a full day care, part-time and sessional service to children aged 1 to 6 years old. The service is in a business park just outside the town of New Ross and operates from a unit that has been adapted for the purpose of childcare. The service consists of a preschool room, a toddler room and a baby room. There is a hallway, an onsite kitchen, toilets, nappy changing facilities and an outdoor play area to the side of the service.

Staffing

There are eight staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. All staff working directly with the early years children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

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 compliance based on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment
Regulation 10 Policies and procedures
Regulation 11 Staffing levels
Regulation 15 Record of preschool child,
Regulation 17 Information for parents,
Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials,
Regulation 22 Food and Drink,
Regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety, and welfare of child,
Regulation 25 First aid,
Regulation 26 Fire Safety,
Regulation 28 Insurance,
Regulation 29 – Premises

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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the days 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.

(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:

- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5.

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider is also registered as the person in charge of the service. On the day of inspection, the service manager was deputising in this role. The registered provider arrived later on the morning of the first day of the inspection and was available to facilitate the inspection for that day and the following day.

(2)(a)(b)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were 8 staff employed in the service. There were 16 written and validated references available on file for staff working in the service.

(c)

There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for all staff members. The service had demonstrated partial compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years. This had been completed as required for 7 staff.

(d)

Police vetting was available on file for one staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

There were qualifications on file for eight staff working directly with the preschool children. These staff held an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

(7)(a)

The registered provider had ensured that all employees were appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information. Staff who spoke to the inspector were clear in their understanding of the policies and procedures in place in the service. Staff who spoke to the inspector said that they had regular staff meetings in the service to discuss any issues arising.

Staff were clear in their responsibilities in the service. There was a detailed work sheet detailing staff responsibilities in the service displayed in the kitchen. For example, deep cleaning certain areas in the service on a regular basis. Staff were observed to work well as a team and good communication was observed between staff members.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

There were policies and procedures in place in the service specified in Schedule 5 of these regulations. The policies reviewed for this inspection were the policy on the administration of medication and the policy on the management of accidents and incident in the service.

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.

Compliance Information

(1)(2)

There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children on both days of the inspection.

Day 1

At 10.30 am

There were 32 children in the care of 7 staff.

At 1.30 pm

There were 15 children in the care of 5 staff.

Day 2

At 10.30 am

There were 29 children in the care of 6 staff.

The registered provider was also available to assist in the rooms on both days of inspection if required.

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.*

Compliance Information

There was a registration form available in respect of each child enrolled in the service. A sample of 10 forms completed by the parents were reviewed as part of the inspection process and were found to contain all the information required under parts (a) – (i) of this regulation.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 17 – Information for parents

A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).

Compliance Information

There was an information sheet for parents who were proposing to enrol their child in the service. The service provided parents with information as required under regulation 17. The information sheet provided for parents contained an outline of the curriculum, the hours of operation, contact details, payment schemes and the facilities available within the service. There was also information included on the day to day running of the service.

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

There was a plentiful supply of art equipment in the preschool room. There was a supply of toys and equipment stored on easily accessible shelves in all rooms. Of particular note was the dress up area in the preschool room. The area included a rich variety of clothes for the children to dress up in and use their imaginations during free play.

There was a large easel in the preschool room which a few children could use at any one-time making art time a sociable occasion for them. There was a display of original art work consisting of autumn leaves. There was also a display of the children's hand prints. The toddler room had a supply of toys such as rattles, shaped plastic bricks and story books. The children had direct access to an outdoor area attached to the toddler room which was supplied with ride on toys which were stored in a play house in the area.

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 provided all snacks and meals for the children attending the service. The snack served on the first day of inspection consisted of crackers, cheese and raisins with water served to drink. The dinner consisted of chicken casserole and mashed potatoes from the preschool dinner company. The service has three readymade dinners delivered weekly which are frozen, defrosted and heated for the children. These dinners are provided by a company which supplies the preschool service. The dinner on the other two days is provided by the service.

Non-Compliance Information

The dinner served to the children on the second day of inspection was not adequate to meet their nutritional needs and did not meet the national standards required. The meal consisted of pasta mixed with a processed sauce. The nutritional standard for a hot meal in a preschool service requires every hot meal to contain foods from three food groups.

On reviewing the 4-week menu the inspector noted one of the meals provided by the service was sausage and chips. This meal is not adequate to meet the national standards required for a hot meal served to preschool children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has replaced the meal served on the day of inspection with a meal provided by an outside catering company. This meal consists of a vegetable and pasta gratin with pasta. Sausage and chips will continue to be served in the service as it is popular with the children. The registered provider will ensure it continues to be served with baked beans to ensure it meets the nutritional standards required.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the menu of meals supplied by the outside catering company was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence and a response that is adequate to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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

Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. The outdoor areas in the service were safe, suitable and secure.

Infection Control

The service appeared clean. There were daily and weekly cleaning schedules maintained. The service had an infection control policy. Staff were seen to attend to children's personal hygiene during the day. The staff were observed to be vigilant in supporting the children in washing their hands before meals, after using the toilet and after messy play. There was warm water to support hand washing, liquid soap, disposable hand towels and foot pedal operated bins provided across the service. The nappy changing area was clean and well organised.

Safe Sleep

The service had a designated sleep room. Individual bed linen was available. Staff who spoke with the inspector, were aware of safe sleep practices. Staff who spoke to the inspector were knowledgeable in the importance of maintaining safe sleep for the children in their care. They were knowledgeable on how often a sleeping child is physically checked, recording of the observations such as colour, position and breathing rate of the sleeping children. The staff carried out and recorded physical sleep checks every 10 minutes as per the service policy on safe sleep.

Non-Compliance Information

1.
The service did not demonstrate full compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate regulatory notice requiring services to renew all Garda vetting every 3 years. There was 1 staff member who did not have their Garda vetting renewed in line with the regulatory notice.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Garda vetting has been renewed for the staff member and is now in place on file in the service. The registered provider will monitor dates of Garda vetting in the service and will renew as required to comply with the regulatory notice.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of renewed Garda vetting was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence and a response that is adequate to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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)

There was a person trained in first aid responder course immediately available to the children attending the preschool service from 11.00 am on the first day of the inspection and for the duration of the inspection on the second day.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

The person trained in a first aid responder course arrived at the service at 11.00 am on the first day of the inspection. On review of documentation in the service and staff roster records, there was no one in the service trained in a first aid responder course available to the children before the arrival of this staff member who was on the roster from 11.00 am each day. Preschool services are required to have a person trained in a first aid responder course available to the children attending the service at all times. It is acknowledged there was another staff member trained in paediatric first aid available to the children on the day of inspection.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

A second staff member is now trained in a first aid responder course. The registered provider will ensure there is a staff member always trained in a first aid responder course available to the children in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the certificate stating the second staff member was now qualified in a first aid responder course was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence and a response that is adequate to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

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.

(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)

There was a template in place to record the monthly fire drills which had taken place in the service.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment which was last serviced in December 2023. The smoke alarm was serviced in August 2024.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the hallway of the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in the service in August 2024. Preschool services are required to carry out monthly fire drills to comply with national standards in relation to fire safety in services.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider will ensure monthly fire drills are carried out in the service going forward.

Supporting documentation submitted

A copy of the template in use and two fire drills carried out in October and November 2024 was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence and a response that is adequate to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

Part VI – Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was insurance in place to cover the number of children who were present on the day of inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (c)
The service was adequately lit, heated and ventilated. The mechanical ventilation in the nappy changing unit and the children's toilets were in working order on the day of inspection.
- (e)
The service was well equipped with toilets, wash hand basins and nappy changing facilities for the number of children attending. There were sufficient toilets available for the staff working in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
There was maintenance required in the outdoor area. There were weeds and nettles growing from the fence in the outdoor area. There was a bench for children to sit at which had a broken table which needed to be repaired.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has carried out work in the outdoor area since the inspection. The area has been power hosed, and weeds removed from the perimeter fence. The service has now included the weeding of the outdoor area on the cleaning schedule in place in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographs of the improved cleaned outdoor area was received by the inspector. The cleaning schedule with the inclusion of monthly weeding of the outdoor area was received by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has submitted evidence and a response that is adequate to meet the requirements of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.