

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015WX073
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Name of Service:	Little Daisies Childcare
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Address of Service:	Gorey Community Youth and Childcare Centre, Maryward Lane, St Michael's Road, Gorey, Co. Wexford
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Eircode:	Y25 T8P8
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Name of Registered Provider:	Mandi Tighe
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection Day 1:	16/04/2025
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Date of Inspection Day 2:	17/04/2025
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No of pre-school children Day 1:	AM	33	PM	25
No of pre-school children Day 2:		32		N/A

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford.
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Inspection undertaken by:	C. Ryan
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Title:	Early Years Inspector
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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

Little Daisies Childcare is a community based early years service offering a play-based service. The service operates from 07:30 to 18:00 and can accommodate up to 67 children at any one time. The service is located in the Gorey community youth building, Gorey town. The preschool service consists of four playrooms, two sleep rooms, a sensory room, sanitary accommodation, and an office. Outside there is secured outdoor play areas directly accessible from the playrooms.

Staffing

There are 33 staff employed in the service, including a caretaker and administration staff. On the day of inspection there were 18 staff working directly with the children attending the service. The registered provider does not work directly with the children. The service employs two childcare managers who are the designated people in charge daily on the premises. All of the staff working directly with the children held the minimum level 5 and above qualifications in Childcare and Early Childhood Care and Education.

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.

Regulation 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),

Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),
Regulation 26 Fire Safety (1) (a) (b) (4)
Regulation 27 Supervision,
Regulation 28 Insurance and
Regulation 32 Complaints.

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, persons 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*

(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)(b)

On the day of the inspection the registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service. There was a second named staff member available to deputise as needed.

(2) The staff files for nine new staff working in the service were reviewed on the day.

(a)(b)

There were validated references for all employees kept in each staff member's file.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to re-new Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d)

Police vetting disclosures were available on file for staff who had lived outside of the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4)

Certificates of qualifications for the new staff members working directly with the preschool children were available on file.

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

The service had written policies, procedures and statements developed specifically for the service, in line with those required under Schedule 5.

A sample of the policies and procedures were reviewed as part of the inspection process: Comments and complaints Policy, Policy on Infection Control, Medication Policy, Infectious Disease and Illness Policy, and Accident/ Incident Policy. They were found to contain the essential information relevant to each policy. The policies were available to parents.

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)

During the inspection, there was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the service. On day 1 of the inspection, 15 staff members cared for 33 children. On day 2 of the inspection, 14 staff members cared for 32 children. On both days, the manager was available for support if required.

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 was secured on the inspector's arrival to the service. There was an intercom system to allow access. Staff at reception could see any person approaching the main door of the service. This assisted in preventing persons unauthorised access to the building.
- Children's attendance records were fully maintained and updated during the inspection.
- The outdoor area was secure and fully enclosed to the rear and side of the building.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of the accident and incident forms from three of the rooms.
- The accident and incident reports reviewed were maintained in line with the service policy.
- The manager showed the inspector documented risk assessments that were carried out in the service.
- The storage facilities for hazardous cleaning materials were restricted to children.

Infection Control:

- Children were observed washing their hands before eating their dinner, after outdoor play and after toileting. Staff supervised children with their handwashing.
- Staff ensured that babies and younger children had their hands washed after nappy changing.
- There was liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels available for handwashing.
- Staff showed the inspector how they washed and sterilised soothers daily on the premises.
- Each cot had a washable /wipeable mattress.

Administration of Medication:

- The inspector reviewed a sample of administration of medication forms from three of the rooms.
- There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of anti-febrile medication and prescribed medication and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency.
- Staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication if required during discussions with the inspectors.
- The staff identified where medication was stored in a safe location on the premises.

Safe Sleep:

- Sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes and recorded as per the sleep policy.
- Cellular blankets were available for children sleeping in cots.
- Cots had mattresses were of a quality that could be easily cleaned.
- Children who shared their cot had individual linen for their mattresses when going for a nap.
- There were two sleep rooms: one in the baby room and one in the toddler room.

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 were nine staff trained in FAR available to the children attending the preschool service.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position and was available for use.

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)

The last recorded fire drill was carried out on 31 March 2025.

(1)(b)

A record was maintained of when the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced in December 2024 and January 2025.

(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.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Compliance Information

The service ensured that all children were appropriately supervised at all times throughout the inspection. All staff were suitably qualified and had extensive experience working directly with children. The staff rostered demonstrated that the child to staff ratios exceeded the minimum requirements for care needed under the Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

A staff member was always present with the children in the outdoor area and the supervision observed on the day showed a balance which allowed children to play without interruption. Parents and guardians were observed at collection time where children were handed over and parents spoke directly with the staff who cared for their child.

Staff were observed to supervise the children indoors. Staff sat with the children and took part in their play, learning and exploration. The language used by staff was kind and respectful to the children, with permission sought before engaging or interrupting play and activities. The playroom environments were well laid out and resourced to allow the children to fully engage in play and learning and the staff were present to always see the children.

Staff sat with the children during mealtimes to supervise and support them. Children were supervised with toileting and handwashing. Staff were observed to pick up on cues from children who needed the toilet. Children who used the toilet independently could do so, with staff remaining close by to help if needed.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had a valid certificate of insurance for a full day care service.

Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

Regulation 32 – Complaints

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-

- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,*
- (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and*
- (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)(c)(2)(a)(b)

The service had a comments and complaints policy. Staff maintained a room diary to record any concerns or comments, and this was shared with the service manager. The staff when speaking with the inspector were clear in how to handle any concerns or comments that arose and the procedure they were required to follow in line with the service's policy.