

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2016DS007
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Precious Days Childcare Ltd
-------------------------	-----------------------------

Address of Service:	1A Allenton Green, Ballycragh, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D24 V889
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Keeley
-------------------------------------	--------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	14/11/2024
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	16	PM	16
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	Sarah Quigley
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

Precious Days Ltd is a privately owned early years service located in a residential area of Tallaght, South Co Dublin. Sessional care and education are provided each weekday on a school calendar basis to preschool children aged two to six years. The service operates from a purposely adapted commercial premises and consists of one large care room, a kitchen, and sanitary accommodation. An enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs five staff members including the registered provider who works directly in the service. On the day of inspection four staff members were present. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection.

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/ information and records/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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 deputy 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

(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.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

(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

Documentation in respect of regulation 9(2)(4) was assessed for all five adults employed to work in the service. The assessment of regulation 9(3) was limited to two adults who had been employed since the last date of inspection on the 2nd December 2021.

- (2)
- (a) (b)
- The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from two sources for each of the five adults.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure from The National Vetting Bureau was available for the five adults employed. The service also demonstrated they adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in 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 required it.
- (3) Documentation reviewed for two adults who commenced employment since the last date of inspection evidenced that the procedures specified under regulation 9(2) had been completed prior to them commencing employment.
- (4) Each of the five adults held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education 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.*

Compliance Information

- (1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service on the day of inspection. There were sixteen children present in the service being supervised by four adults during the inspection.

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

(1)(a)-(i)

A sample of documentation was reviewed for twelve of the children currently enrolled to attend the service by the inspector. The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the details relating to points (a) to (i) of the above regulation for each of the records reviewed.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Documentation reviewed evidenced that children’s attendance was being accurately recorded in the care room.
 - (i) A staffing roster was available in the service and was reflective of the staff members present throughout the inspection.
 - (j) Staff members stated that medication is not routinely administered to children in the service. However, the procedures in place should the requirement arise for medication to be administered were detailed to the inspector, and appropriate documentation was available to record this if required.
 - (k) Records of accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service were available. A sample of the documentation was reviewed and contained the necessary details.

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-

(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

Compliance Information

The inspector observed appropriate care practices in place throughout the inspection.

The children moved freely around the care room, independently choosing what activities they would like to engage in both alone and with staff members. The programme of care was observed to be child led and children were visibly content and engaged in play-based activities throughout the inspection. Staff arranged areas of interest and various activities for the children to ensure meaningful play experiences. These included sand and water play, arts and crafts activities, playdough, dress up, and imaginative play. The children all spent time outdoors during the morning and were dressed appropriate to the weather. Children accessed the toilet independently and staff provided support to younger children where required. Staff availed of opportunities throughout the inspection for personal one to one conversation with the children and demonstrated a good awareness of each child's individual needs. Staff interacted warmly and respectfully with the children and used gentle tones, addressing children by name and making eye contact.

Staff sat with the children during lunch time creating a homely, relaxed atmosphere. Drinks of water were available to the children at all times. A designated rest area was provided within the room where children could relax or take a break from activities. Staff provided comfort to children when upset and managed behaviours using positive strategies. Children were encouraged to be independent in their environment, cleaning up after play and preparing for mealtimes. Staff prepared children for transitions using songs and sand timers which ensured a seamless transition from one stage of the morning to the next.

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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with the registered provider, and inspection of the premises that the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door into the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons gaining access or children exiting unsupervised. The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The registered provider had taken measures to ensure the indoor play environment was safe and free from hazards. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

Infection Control:

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Pedal-operated, lidded bins were in place throughout the service to appropriately manage waste. Staff supported children to wash and sanitise their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet, after outdoor play, and before snack and lunch. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. Staff members outlined appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications, and there were procedures in place to safely administer and document such medication if required, including in the case of an emergency. Staff members detailed the procedures for administering medication when required during discussions with the inspector and had appropriate documentation available to record such administration if required. Care plans were in place for two children who required emergency medication.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

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)
An adult trained in First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available to the children during the inspection.
- (2)
(a)(b)
A suitably equipped first aid box was observed to be immediately accessible to the children within the service and was stored in a conspicuous location on the day of inspection.

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 detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place in November 2024.
 - (b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system had been serviced in August 2024.
- (4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

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

Compliance Information

- (c) On the morning of inspection, the care room was noted to be 19.4°Celsius and the sanitary area was noted to be 19.6°.