

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2017WD500
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Name of Service:	Maud's Little Learners
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Address of Service:	Carrigahilla, Stradbally, Kilmacthomas, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
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Eircode:	X42 FX46
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Marie Power
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	18/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Community Care Office Cork Road, Waterford City X91 VX09
Inspection undertaken by:	Aileen Bradshaw
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

Mauds Little Learners is a registered sessional service based in an old school building, in Stradbally village in rural Co Waterford. The premises have two care rooms only one of which is currently being used. There is a large outdoor area at the front of the building. The service is registered to operate from 09:30 to 12:30 and care for 22 children aged between 2 and 6 years.

Staffing

The registered provider is included in the roster and employs two staff members to care for the children.

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;

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels;

Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-School Child;

Regulation 17 – Information for Parents;

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and Play;

Regulation 22 – Food and Drink;

Regulation 25 – First Aid;

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Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures;

Regulation 28 – Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 15 – Record of a Pre-school Child.

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.

Additional Information

A referral was made to the fire officer on the 19 February 2026 to seek advice on fire safety.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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)

The registered provider was on the premises on the inspector's arrival. Through discussion it was determined that either the registered provider was on the premises, or the designated person in charge was available at all times.

(2) The three staff files were reviewed:

(a)(b)

Validated references were available for all staff members.

(c) Garda vetting was available for the three staff members. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice required services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.

(d) On a review of staff documentation, it was determined that police vetting was not required.

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(d) Evidence was available to demonstrate that all staff had 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.

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)(3) During the inspection there was an adequate number of staff caring for the children. During the morning there were 13 pre-school children being cared for by 3 staff members.

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;*

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(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 children's record forms were reviewed and the information required under parts (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(i) was available on the day of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (h) Records of immunisations were not completed on any of the 12 children's record forms.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that they had contacted all the parents and received the immunisation records and placed them in each child's file. They have amended the introduction handbook to include children's immunisations records are required and must be kept up to date.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The action carried out by the registered provider has met the requirement 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

The parental handout included the details required under regulation 16 (1)(a)-(g). The registered provider stated that each parent receives the handout on enrolment and staff are available to discuss any parental queries if required.

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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.
- (2) A registered provider-
- (a) of a full day care service, a part-time day care service, a sessional preschool service or a childminding service that is registered for the first time on or after 30 June 2016, or
- shall ensure that a suitable, safe, and secure outdoor space to which the preschool children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1) (a) Materials and equipment were available on low shelving in the care room allowing children opportunities to choose their activities independently. There was a mixture of natural and artificial materials available. The furniture, fixture and fittings were suitable for the age and stage of the children in each room.
- Designated areas of interest were constructed by considered use of furniture, floor coverings, and large play equipment. This created areas of interest for the children, categorising material and equipment into various themes. For example, small world play, the home corner, imagination play, and arts and crafts. These areas were equipped with sufficient material for the children attending the service and reflected the children's interests. The space accommodated children to work in small groups or independently. On the day of the inspection seven children were at the activity table participating in a group activity with playdough, with two children at a small table building with magnetic shapes, another at the sand tray, with two more building bridges at the construction mat. One child was engaged reading a book in the cosy corner.
- There were visual displays in the room at the children's level which included the daily routine, children's individual artwork and paintings. The children's identity and belonging were reflected in the room with the use of the children's names and photographs at the coat hooks, on the birthday posters, photographs

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of the extended families on the family tree and wall displays depicting each child's age, photo, favourite colour, and favourite food.

(b) The care room had a cosy area away from the main play area where children could sit, rest and take a break from play. This space had the bookshelves and soft furnishings.

- (2) The outdoor area at the front of the premises was secured with fencing. This grassed space had several solid structures for the children to climb on, crawl through and sit on. It was also furnished with a variety of material and equipment which offered play opportunities, for example, a mud kitchen, and a planting box. There was a large area with a smooth surface which the registered provider said was used for balance bikes, trikes, and pedal tractors. There were traffic cones which were used to set out tracks for the children to follow.

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 children sat at the tables for snack at 11:13 having each washed their hands. Children independently got their lunch boxes and chose which table to sit at. Each table was set with a place mat. Children were observed to look for help opening their snacks or drinks and were complimented by staff on their lovely manners when they used the words 'please' and 'thanks.'

Snack time was a sociable occasion with children chatting and staff sitting at the tables with them engaging in conversations. The snacks supplied by the parents followed the services 'Healthy Eating Policy' – the children were observed to have a selection of rice cakes, yoghurts, raisins, crackers and cut up fruit. Each child had their own bottle of water to drink.

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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 had up to date first aid training to the level of a first responder and was available to the children at all times.
- (2) (a)(b) There were two first aid kits in the hallway of the service these were conspicuous and accessible if required.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance with the expiry date of the 27 March 2026.