

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE198
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Name of service:	Mags Childminding
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Address of service:	3 The Elms, Newbridge, Co. Kildare W12 KR26
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Name of registered provider:	Margaret Donohoe
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Type of service registered:	Sessional	☐	Part-Time	☐	Drop-In	☐
	Full Day Care	☐	Childminding	☒	Temporary	☐

Date of Inspection:	13/09/2022
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Number of pre-school children present:	AM	4	PM	4
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child & Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W.
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Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan
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	Mags Childminding was established in 2015 as a privately-run child-minding service for pre-school children aged 0 years to 6 years by the present Registered Provider. The service provides 'home from home' childcare and education to children from 07.30am to 18.30hrs. The service is located in the Registered Providers home which is situated within a housing development on the outskirts of Newbridge. There is a playroom and sitting room available for the children to use. Sleep facilities are provided in a quiet room upstairs. There is adequate parking for cars using the service. Outdoor play space is available in a secure garden at the rear of the premises.
Staffing	Mags Childminding is operated as a single-handed service by the Registered Provider. There are adults available, who are familiar with the operation of the service and are in a position to help the Registered Provider in the event of an emergency. The adult working in the service has completed a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 6 as per the National Framework of Qualifications.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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 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 and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. 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, emergency person 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.

Compliance information

Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) was not reviewed as there was no change from the last inspection to the staff employed in the service.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) (b) A childminder shall ensure that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the childminder in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the childminder in the event of an emergency.

Compliance information

(8)(b) The childminder ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge was available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 12 - Childminders

(1) A childminder shall ensure that—

- (a) there are no more than 5 pre-school children in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children,
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), there are no more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time, including his or her own pre-school children, and
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises

(2) A childminder may have more than 2 children under the age of 15 months in his or her care at any given time where all such children are siblings of each other.

Compliance information

(1)

(a) The childminder was caring for four children on the day of the inspection. The childminder ensured that there were no more than five pre-school children in her care at any given time. This was confirmed by the details of children's daily attendance including arrival and departure times which were recorded in the roll book.

(b) The childminder ensured that there were no more than two children under the age of 15 months in her care at any given time.

(c) There was a working telephone on the premises.

(2) Not applicable, as there were no children who were siblings in the service.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and
- (c) an authorised person.

Compliance information

The registered provider ensured that a copy of the Child Care Regulations 2016 was available for inspection.

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-
- (a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance information

Basic needs of Infants & Children

There was a healthy eating policy in place in the service. A three-week menu was on display offering varying and nutritious choices for meals and snacks. Food was freshly prepared daily. On the day of the inspection lunch was beef stroganoff, rice and a scoop of mashed potato. Carrot and coriander soup with wheaten bread was offered for the evening meal prior to the children going home. The staff member was attentive to the children's needs; conversations and interactions between the children and the adult was observed to be informative, educational and fun. Children had access to drinks and the younger children were provided with drinks at regular intervals.

Children were encouraged to be independent when using the toilet and assistance was given when required. Nappy changing was carried out at designated times or more frequently if needed.

Needs led sleep was provided for the children who needed it and children who wanted to relax were observed using the sofa to take a break from activities. The children were observed enjoying freedom of movement within the childminders home and could access the outdoor area freely.

Children's behaviour was managed in a positive way with an emphasis on praise and encouragement.

The service ensured that children were appropriately clothed for outdoors activities particularly when the weather is poor. Children were changed promptly if their clothing was wet or soiled from outdoor activities.

Supporting relationships around children.

Children were cared for by the same adult daily and this provided them with the opportunity to form a secure relationship with their carer.

The child minder was observed responding promptly and kindly to the non-verbal and verbal cues of each child. She used the child's name, made eye contact, spoke in a positive tone to the children and facilitated each child's age-appropriate choice. She encouraged the children to take part and afforded them opportunities to make choices as well as playing together. Children were praised for their involvement in activities.

The childminding service operated in partnership with parents. Parents were provided with a daily written report of their child's day as well as a brief verbal exchange of information at drop off and collection.

The registered provider uses telephone as the main method of communication and can arrange face to face meetings by appointment as necessary.

Physical & Material Environment

The service supported learning through play within a home from home setting.

There was a playroom which was equipped with a low-level table and chairs, low level shelving with equipment and materials accessible to the pre-school children.

The playroom had a good range of toys, materials and resources to support the

different age ranges attending. Materials included a kitchen area, bricks and building blocks, musical toys, jigsaws, puzzles, books, pop up toys, shape sorters, small world toys, paper, crayons, pencils.

A secure outdoor area was located at the rear of the premises and consisted of grassed and paved areas. There were two sand trays, water play, a playhouse with small world toys, ride on toys, trikes, a slide and a football net.

The setting provided the children with a learning environment that was inviting, organised, accessible and adaptable to support children and develop their sense of curiosity and learning through play.

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 service has taken the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children attending:

Infection control

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towel were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Hand sanitising units were placed at the entrances/ exit, playroom and sanitary area in the service. Foot pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service.

The premises were observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Written cleaning schedules were displayed and maintained for all room environments including the outside play equipment with an increase in the frequency and extent of cleaning regimes. These included:

- High contact areas
- Mouthing toys
- All toys and equipment
- Soother management
- Bed linen
- Cots and mattresses
- Sanitary areas

Plastic aprons and gloves were available in the sanitary/nappy changing area and in the playroom.

The registered provider demonstrated a very good understanding of the specific infection control guidance relating to Covid-19.

The service was ventilated with windows and door to garden open.

Administration of medication.

The registered provider demonstrated a good knowledge of the administration of medication policy and the safe practices to follow when administering medication including parental consent. Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children.

General safety.

The entrance door to the service was controlled by the registered provider. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and safe storage of cleaning agents. The registered provider documented the inspectors visit to the service in the visitor's book on arrival.

Safe Sleep:

It was observed that 10-minute sleep check observations were being performed on children who required sleep. The registered provider documented the colour, position and breathing of sleeping children in her care.

The registered provider demonstrated the key principles required for the safe sleep for pre-school children less than 2 years of age on interview.

Fire safety

Monthly fire drills had been carried out and the registered provider was familiar with fire safety evacuation procedures from the service. Fire exits were not obstructed.

Outings

There was an outings policy available to guide the practice of outings.

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.
- (2) A registered provider shall ensure that-
- (a) no person other than-
 - (i) a 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
- (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance information

- (1) The registered provider maintained a record of the daily attendance of each child including the times of arrival and departure.
- (2)
- (a) The registered provider ensured that no unauthorised person entered the premises without approval. The registered provider inspected the inspector's official identification and warrant card to verify identity.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was maintained of the attendance to the premises.

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) Persons qualified in paediatric first aid were available on the premises including first aid response (FAR) training.
- (2) (a), (b) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the premises and was suitably equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

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) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 11 August 2022.
- (b) There were records available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke/fire alarm system in the service dated 5 January 2022 and 18 June 2022, respectively.
- (4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance information

Evidence of insurance for the number of children attending the service was available. The expiry date was 27 March 2023.