

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2021DR003
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Name of Service:	Marie's Playgroup
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Address of Service:	31 Balally Drive, Dundrum, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D16 X738
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Kilgallon
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date of Inspection:	09/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	3	PM	3
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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
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Description of service

Marie's Playgroup is a privately owned childminding service which is located in a residential area of Dundrum, South Co. Dublin. The child-minding service operates from 9:00 to 12:30 each weekday providing a child-led, play based curriculum. Care and education are provided for in a purposely adapted care room located within the registered provider's own private home to children aged 2 to 3 years. An outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises with a natural grass surfacing.

Staffing

The registered provider operates the service single handedly. A second person who is familiar with the operation of the service is available to the registered provider in the case of an emergency should the need arise.

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*. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation (number and name of regulation) ...As a result, the scope of the inspection included rooms name rooms...

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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*, 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.*

(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.

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Compliance Information

(2)(3)(4)

Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(d) and (4) were found to be compliant of the previous inspection of the service where documentation in respect of the registered provider, the adult available in the event of an emergency, and one other adult living in the home were reviewed. Therefore these regulations were not re-assessed as part of this inspection.

Regulation 9(2)(c) was assessed in respect of the registered provider, a second adult who resides in residence the service operates from, and the adult available in the event of an emergency. Three Garda vetting disclosures were available and the service adhered to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(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, and

Compliance Information

(8) (b)

The registered provider ensured that a second person who was familiar with the operation of the service and lived within close proximity of the service, was available to provide assistance in the event of an emergency as required.

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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) Three children were present on the day of inspection. A maximum of five children are registered to attend.
- (b) All children attending the service were aged two years.
- (c) The provider had a charged mobile phone in the service.

(2) Not applicable as the provider only accommodates children over 2 years of age.

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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 during the inspection.

The registered provider interacted warmly with the children when assisting with personal care and spoke to the children in gentle tones. Children's nappies were changed as required. The care room was equipped with a rest area where children could take time away from the group if desired. A snack is provided daily by the parents/guardians of the children in attendance. Children sat together with the provider during snack time chatting, creating a sociable atmosphere. Children were supported to clean their hands at appropriate intervals during the inspection.

Children were observed to be content and engaged in play throughout the inspection. Children were afforded the opportunity to play outdoors and were dressed appropriately to the weather. The registered provider demonstrated an awareness of each child's individual care needs which was reflected during one-on-one interactions with children.

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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 provider, and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

General Safety:

The entrance door to the premises was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service 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:

Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal-operated, lidded bins. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including before snack. Schedules were in place and maintained to ensure the service, equipment and materials are regularly cleaned. The provider stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

Administration of Medication:

The registered provider stated they do not administer medication to children in the service. There were procedures in place to safely administer and document medication if required in the event of an emergency.

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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 was trained in first aid and works single handedly with the children each day.

(2)

- (a) The first aid box was stored in a conspicuous location within the service.
- (b) A first aid box was available in the service at all times on the day of inspection.