

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2020DR004
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Name of Service:	Lorraine's Childminding
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Address of Service:	48 Maple Manor, Cabinteely, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 P5N4
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Name of Registered Provider:	Lorraine Wynne
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Service type:	Childminder
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Date(s) of Inspection:	03/09/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	5
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill
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

This private childcare service was established in 2020 and is a registered childminding service. The service caters for children aged 2 years 8 months - 6 years and operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm. All children currently attending are participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme. The service operates from the registered provider's own home a two-storey semi-detached house in a residential area in Cabinteely, Dublin 18. The service operates mostly outdoors. An outdoor classroom with a Perspex corrugated roof is set up adjacent to the house. A spacious outdoor play area is available for the children. The area is well equipped with a variety of suitable toys and play equipment.

Staffing

The registered provider operates the service and has employed two additional staff on a job share basis under the Access and Inclusion scheme (AIMS). On the day of inspection, the registered provider and one staff member were working directly with 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 and safety. This inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

9 (1)(a)(b), (2)(a) -(d), (4) Management and Recruitment,
11(1), (2), (8)(b) Staffing Levels,

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12 (1) (a) and (c) Childminder,

23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child

25 (1), (2) (a), (b) First Aid,

26 (1), (a), (b) and (4) Fire Safety Measures. The inspection 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, 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,

(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.

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(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

(2) The inspection included a review of files for two new staff employed and included a review of Garda Vetting for all persons on the premises who had access to the children.

(c) Garda Vetting from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was available for all staff employed in the service and adults who had access to the children. All of these were dated within the previous three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for the new staff as neither had not lived outside the state for a period of longer than six months as an adult.

(4) There was evidence available to demonstrate the two adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)
(a) There were no written validated references on file for one adult. Two written references available for a second adult had not been validated.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a) The registered provider printed out the references for Staff, validated them and added them to the file.
Created a Checklist for any future Aim Staff

Supporting documentation submitted

Copies of validated references.

Summary Comment

Supporting evidence was submitted in keeping with the actions submitted. The Regulatory requirement has been met.

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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.

(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

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children for a childminding service was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were five children attending the service being supervised by two adults on the day of inspection.

(8)(b) A second person familiar with the operation of the service employed under (AIM) is currently working with the registered provider on a daily basis.

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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,*
- and*
- (c) there is a working telephone on the premises.*

Compliance Information

(1)

- (a) There are no more than 5 pre-school children attending the childminding service at any given time.
- (c) The registered provider has a working phone on the premises.

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 to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. A bell system was in operation to access the service.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.

Infection Control:

- The environment was clean and the service maintained a cleaning schedule.

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- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate.
- Pedal operated bins were provided for the disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

- The service had an administration of medication policy. Written parental consent was available for the administration of emergency medication.

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 responder training certificate which was valid until the 10 February 2025.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid boxes were safely stored, easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

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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 monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment and smoke alarm were dated as being completed on the 14 March 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.