

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2025CC008
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Name of Service:	Curious Minds Glantane FDC
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Address of Service:	Glantane National School, Brittas, Mallow, Co Cork
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Eircode:	P51 PK65
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Name of Registered Provider:	Marie Sheehy
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/12/2025
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No of pre-school children:	AM	7	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate, 13 Market Square, Mallow, Co Cork, P51 DD5Y
Inspection undertaken by:	N O'Donoghue
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	N/A
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Description of service

Curious Minds Glantane is registered as a full day care service for early years children aged 2 to 6 years. It operates from 7.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday, 52 weeks of the year. The service also facilitates children attending the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme, from 9.10am to 12.10pm.

The premises is located within a dedicated classroom in Glantane National School. The children's sanitary facilities are located within the care room, the adult sanitary facilities are situated down the corridor from the care room. The designated outdoor area is accessible by the care room to the front and side of the building. The service also operates a school age care service and the registered provider has multiple services.

Staffing

There were six adults attached to the service. This included the registered provider, two childcare practitioners, two school age staff and one administrative worker.

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 announced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23 and 25; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

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

The inspector referred the service to Services Operating Outside Registration Status (SOORS).

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.

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

It was identified on inspection, that the service was operating outside of their registration status. The service was registered with an alternative person in charge identified. Through discussion with staff on day of inspection, it was identified that a new person in charge was working in the service. The registered provider was required to notify the Early Years Inspectorate of any proposed change in details in relation to the preschool registration.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider submitted a change in circumstances application to the Early Years Inspectorate following the inspection. The registered provider will ensure that any changes to the registration details of the service will be updated when required.

Supporting documentation submitted

Email evidence of the approved change in circumstances was forwarded to the Early Years Inspectorate.

Summary Comment

All correspondence was examined. The non-compliance under Regulation 8 has been rectified, and the requirement has been met.

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*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

(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) The service had a designated person in charge and a deputy person in charge on the premises on the day of inspection. In the event the person or deputy person in charge were not on the premises a named person able to deputise was available.

(b) A person in charge or named deputy person in charge were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.

(c) There was a clearly identified management structure in the service. This included person in charge, deputy person in charge and childcare practitioners.

(2) There are six adults attached to the service; all six adults files were open to inspection.

(a) Of the 12 references required, 11 validated references were available from past employers.

(b) Of the 12 references required, 1 validated reference was available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for all six adults with direct access to children. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was deemed to be required for two of the six adults working in the service and copies of the relevant documents were maintained on file for the two adults.

(4) The three adults working directly with preschool children held relevant qualifications in Early Childhood Care and Education at least at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications 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.

(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)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

(2) On the day of inspection, the adult to child ratios were in adherence to the requirements of the regulation.

- In the preschool room in the morning, there were two staff working with seven children aged between 3 years and 4 months and 4 years and 8 months, all attending sessional care.

(8)

(a) Review of the staff roster from the week prior to the inspection and observation on the day demonstrated that the service was consistently operated with at least two adults present.

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

1 (a)

Basic needs:

- Staff supported children with toileting. Staff encouraged independence and provided support as required.
- Children had access to soft tissues to clean their noses themselves.
- Drink bottles of water were brought in from home, children had access to these bottles at all times.
- Staff provided support to children that needed help when eating and children were encouraged to be self-sufficient.

Supporting relationships:

- Staff completed individual activities with children. These activities included matching colours and pictures, and puzzle making with the children.
- The staff in the care room were observed to be caring and kind towards the children and other adults in the room. Staff used soft tones when speaking with the children and spoke to them at child level.
- Parents and guardians were updated electronically through a mobile childcare application and staff would communicate verbally at drop off and collection times.
- Staff were observant of children's needs and were seen to comfort children when they were upset.

Physical environment:

- The children were observed to freely move around the care room and outdoor area. All children had access to the outdoor area throughout the inspection.
- Children were encouraged to engage in a wide range of gross motor skills including jumping, running and bouncing.
- Fine motor skills were encouraged through puzzles, colouring and sorting activities.

- The care room was broken into clearly identified areas including construction, role-play, kitchen, and creative corner.
- A rest/quiet area was available in the care room consisting of rubber mats, pillows and cushions if children required it.
- Children's artwork was displayed throughout the service.

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 internal and external doors of the service were secured and prevented children from exiting the premises and unauthorised persons accessing the service.
- Toys and equipment appeared in good condition and well maintained.
- Blind cords were securely out of reach of children.
- The openable windows were out of reach of children.

Infection control:

- Windows were open which allowed for fresh air circulation.
- Perishable food was observed in the refrigerators.
- Water temperatures were recorded in the sanitary facility between 36.8°C to 43°C.
- Staff were observed cleaning tables and chairs between activities.
- Foot operated bins were available in each room and sanitary facility.

Administration of medication:

- No administration of medication was observed on the day of inspection. Discussion with staff ensured staff were aware of the correct process for administering medication in the event it was required.

Fire safety:

- Fire equipment was available which included fire extinguishers.
- Fire exits were clear of any obstruction and clearly identified.

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 ensured that staff trained in First Aid Response (FAR) were at all times immediately available to the children.

(2) The first aid box was assessed on day of inspection and was fully stocked.

(a) The first aid box was stored up high, out of reach of children and easily accessible to staff.

(b) The first aid box was accessible to staff in the event that a child may require it.