

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS035
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Maureen's Playgroup
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	84 Turret Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	D20 DV52
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Maureen Faughnan
-------------------------------------	------------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	04/06/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	21	PM	8
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L Magee
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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Maureen's Playgroup is a privately owned sessional service located in the registered provider's home, in an urban setting in South Dublin. A service is provided to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is open Monday to Friday from 8:45am to 11:45am and 12pm to 3pm for 38 weeks of the year. The service operates within two rooms and an outdoor area.

Staffing

There are four adults employed to work in the service including the registered provider who provides relief cover. On the day of inspection, three adults were working in the service. The registered provider arrived after the inspection had commenced and proceeded to support staff by working directly with the children throughout the inspection.

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.

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 -

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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,*
- (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.*

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

(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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.

(c) There is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability for each employee.

(2) Following a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that one adult had commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 14 December 2023. Documentation required under regulation 9(2) (a), (d) & (4) was reviewed in respect of this adult as detailed below. Regulation 9(2)(c) was inspected for this adult and a further three adults whose Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(a) Two written validated references were provided from a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was not required as this adult had not lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed for this adult evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to commencement of employment in the service.

(4) This adult held an award in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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) An adequate number of adults were working with the children. There were 4 adults working with 21 children in the morning session and 4 adults working with 8 children in the afternoon session.

(3) At all times the minimum required ratio of adults to children was maintained.

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

1 (b)

Appropriate and suitable care practices were observed on the day of inspection as evidenced below:

Staff informed the inspector that all children bring their lunch in from home. Water was available within easy reach for the children, this included during their lunch and throughout the session. Staff sat with the children during their mealtime which encouraged a relaxed social environment. Staff supported the children when using the toilet and washing their hands with an appropriate balance of independence and supervision. Staff were familiar with the needs of the children and were observed comforting the children with warm interactions when they became upset. On the day of inspection, the children were singing songs in preparation for their graduation.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The children were observed moving freely between the preschool rooms and the outdoor area and were engaged in activities on their own and with staff.

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:

When the inspector arrived at the service, access to the main door was monitored and controlled by the person in charge to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises and to prevent children from existing the service unsupervised. There were no trailing cables seen and cleaning products were secured out of the children's reach. The outdoor play area was safely enclosed by a surrounding wall.

Infection Control:

On the day of inspection, the children were observed being supported by staff when washing their hands. This included after using the toilet and before meals. The sanitary facility was equipped with warm water, liquid soap and disposable paper towels to support these hand hygiene practices. Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

During discussions with staff, it was evident that they were familiar with the procedures for administering medication when required. On the day of inspection, a detailed care-plan was available for one child who required medication in the event of an emergency. Staff caring for this child demonstrated a clear understanding of the signs to look out for and how to administer this medication and subsequent actions to take if required.

Fire Safety:

On the day of inspection, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire and the fire escape routes were free from any obstructions to allow for timely evacuation.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 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 were up to date. Fire extinguishers were serviced in September 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced in November 2025.
 - (4) The procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the care rooms and the hallway in the service.