

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS198
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Monastery Preschool
-------------------------	---------------------

Address of Service:	3 Monastery Walk, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
----------------------------	---

Eircode:	D22 WV34
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Lisa Kennedy
-------------------------------------	--------------

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

Date of Inspection:	12/12/2023
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	n/a
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, 7th Floor, Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	E. Mulhern
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Monastery Preschool provides a sessional service to children eligible for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. The service operates from a room and outdoor area at the rear of the registered provider's home in a residential area of Clondalkin, Dublin 22. It opens from 9am to 12pm and 12:15pm to 3:15pm and is registered to accommodate 22 children.

Staffing

There are four staff members employed to work in the service including the registered provider.

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 areas of governance, health, welfare and development of child and 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-compliance from re occurring.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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 children, staff and registered provider 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

(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.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The service had a person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person charge and named deputy were on the premises during the inspection.
- (2)
- (a) & (b) All staff had a minimum of two references available. References from reputable sources had been sourced for those who had only one or no previous employers. Records were available of the verification checks that had been carried out.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults.
- (d) International police vetting was not required for any of the adults.
- (4) All staff members held awards in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

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

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information

A sample of 10 records for children were reviewed. The required information was recorded as outlined below:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date when each child first attended the service.
- (c) A section was available for recording the date when the child ceases attending.
- (d) The name, address and telephone number of parents and information where parents can be contacted.
- (e) Names and contact details of other adults authorised to collect the child.
- (f) Medical information, allergies, dietary preferences, additional needs, and other information specific to the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of the child's medical practitioner.
- (h) Immunisation details.
- (i) Signed parent consent for medical treatment in the event of an emergency.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (h) Children's attendance was recorded daily including the time they arrived and left the service.
 - (j) Records were available detailing any medicines which had been given to children including parental consent.
 - (k) Records were available of accidents and incidents which involved children while attending the service.

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

The inspector observed that the children's learning, development, and well-being was supported by the environment and the staff. The indoor and outdoor areas were laid out to support the children's independence, with equipment and materials on low-level open shelves. There were clearly defined interest areas to support the children's focus including construction areas, art and craft areas and role play areas. The areas were well resourced, and the children explored the environment and engaged in self-directed play as well as activities including making Christmas crafts.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

They had opportunities for collaboration and discussed their ideas with the adults. They appeared to be engaged throughout. An area with matting and cushions was available for children to rest or take a break from activities.

Children's identity and belonging was promoted through art displays and a birthday wall. Staff demonstrated an awareness of the children's dispositions and developmental progress. Children with additional needs were supported to participate. The service had engaged with Better Start Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) and had documented inclusion plans. The service used various methods to communicate with parents including parent handbooks, meetings, email and a social media app.

Children were supported to be independent with their personal care. The children used the toilet as they needed with staff reminding and assisting them to wash their hands afterwards. The inspectors observed the staff interacting warmly with the children, engaging positively, and supporting them in their work and play. Children brought food and drinks from home. The inspector observed lunch to be a social occasion; the children and adults sat and ate together and engaged in conversation.

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) A person trained in first aid for children was always available to the children.

(2)(a) & (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was stored in a conspicuous position in the service.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had an insurance certificate for 22 children dated from 28 March 2023 until 27 March 2024.