

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY198
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Name of Service:	Daughters of Charity and Family Service, St. Louise's ECDS
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Address of Service:	North William Street, Dublin 1, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D01 W9H2
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Monson
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date(s) of Inspection:	11/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	29	PM	N/A.
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.
Inspection undertaken by:	E Saini and N McEndoo
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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).

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Description of service

Daughters of Charity Child and Family Service is a community service which provides sessional and full day care to children aged from 2 to 6 years of age. The service is open from 8:30am to 3:30pm Monday to Friday and offers three sessions, 8:45-11:45am, 12.00-3.00pm and 8:45am to 2:30pm. The service operates from five care rooms namely, Tulip Room (2-4 years), Rose Room (4-6 years), Sunflower Room (3-4 years), Bluebell Room (3-5 years) and the Daffodil Room (3-4 years). An outdoor area is available to the rear of the building.

Staffing

The registered provider is not involved in the daily running of the service and employs 15 staff to include the person in charge, the designated person in charge, a cook and 12 childcare staff. On the day of inspection, the designated person in charge facilitated the inspection and provided break cover in the care rooms. Twelve childcare staff to include four staff employed under the Access and Inclusion Model (AIM) scheme.

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 not announced and focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19 and 23. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child. The scope of the inspection included the four care 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*

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(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. The registered provider ensured that.

- (a) There was a designated person in charge and a named adult to deputise in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was available on the premises throughout the period of inspection.
- (c) There was 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.

Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that 6 new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. In addition, Garda vetting for 6 staff members whose disclosure was identified as due for renewal was requested for review. The files for new staff were reviewed, and the following information was noted.

(2)(a) Eight validated written references were available from a past employer.

(b) Not applicable as all references were from a previous employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for 12 adults employed in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available from one country in respect of one new staff member who had resided outside of the jurisdiction for more than 6 months as an adult.

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(4) Documentation was available to demonstrate that 5 adults working directly with children in the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualification.

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)

On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the preschool children attending the service.

(2)

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection, as follows:

- In the Bluebell room there were 7 children aged 3 year to 5 years being cared for by 2 adults.
- In the Rose room there were 6 children aged 4 year to 6 years being cared for by 3 adults.
- In the Daffodil room there were 6 children aged 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 2 adults.
- In the Sunflower room there were 4 children aged 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 2 adults.
- In the Tulip room there were 6 children aged 2 years to 4 years being cared for by 2 adults.

(8)

The registered provider ensured that at least two adults were present on the premises at all times, as evidenced through the staffing roster.

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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:

- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) Records pertaining to a staff roster was held for adults working within the service.
 - (k) On the day of inspection, a sample of 10 accident and incident records were reviewed that had occurred since the last inspection. The records were found to be comprehensive and contained the required information, including parental acknowledgement of the notification.

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.*

Compliance Information

(1)(a) The following observations are examples of how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service.

Basic Care Needs

- The mealtime experience was observed to be a leisurely sociable occasion, where children sat together with their peers and the staff and chatted. Children's drinks were available in the care room within their reach throughout the session, should they feel thirsty at any stage.
- The sanitary accommodation, which was located just beside the care rooms as well as some located within the care room, provided children with access to use the toilet and wash their hands as needed.
- The children appeared comfortable and confident in their environments and were familiar with the daily routine and activities. Children's language development was supported through one to one and group

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discussions, songs and storytelling, and the use of PECs (Picture Exchange Communication) which were observed during the inspection.

- All the children attending the service on the day of inspection were afforded the opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area to the rear of the service during the inspection and were dressed appropriately prior to going outside.

Supporting relationships around children

- Staff demonstrated warm and caring interactions with the children. Children received help from staff when needed.
- Staff were observed interacting with the children and engaging in children's play at tabletop activities and art and mark making activities such as colouring, drawing and glueing.
- Identity and belonging were promoted in the service. For example, there were 'Family Wall' displays at children's level with photographs of children's families. Children's artwork was displayed in the care rooms.
- The service integrated with the local community. Photographic evidence was displayed of a trip by the preschool children visiting the local supermarket.
- Transitions were made as smooth as possible within the service. Children were given notice of when the next activity would occur, such as clean-up for mealtimes. Children moved in a human train and sang songs as they moved from room to room, or to outdoors.
- Teachers from the local school were invited to meet and speak with children. The dress up area contained the school uniform also from the local. This helped children to become familiar with the upcoming transition to school.

Physical and Material environment

- The fully enclosed outdoor play area located to the rear of the service. Play equipment included a large play structure with slide, a sand pit, water tray, self-propel cars, ride-on and push-along toys.
- Suitable rest areas were available in the rooms to enable a child to rest and take a break from activities throughout the day. They consisted of soft mats, cushions and a library.
- There was age-appropriate furniture with small child sized chairs and tables for children to sit whilst they played or for mealtimes. Adult sized chairs were also available in the care room for staff comfort.

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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

General Safety:

- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of the children.
- The door leading into the service was appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The outdoor play areas were secured with railings to prevent a child gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger. The preventive actions following the last inspection had been maintained.
- Materials were observed to be in a good state of repair.
- Evidence of room temperatures being recorded in care rooms throughout the day was present. Temperatures were recorded daily to ensure they were within recommended limits for the preschool children in attendance.

Infection Control:

- Foot pedal bins were observed throughout the premises.
- The materials and resources, and sanitary facilities were observed to be kept maintained and clean.
- Liquid soap, warm water and paper hand towels were provided to support effective hand hygiene in the sanitary accommodation and at the wash hand basins in the care rooms in the service. Child friendly handwashing posters were placed beside the sinks.
- Handwashing was observed to take place as and when needed throughout the day, before mealtimes and after using the sanitary facilities.
- Windows were open for air circulation in the care room.

Administration of Medication:

- No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were unobstructed in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- There were fire drill procedures displayed in each of the care rooms of the service.