

TUSLA REGULATORY INSPECTION REPORT



TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015FL210							
Name of Service:	Madeline's Pre School & Childminding Service							
Address of Service:	153 Grange Abbey Grove, Baldoye, Dublin 13.							
Email Address:	mad.mcgowan@hotmail.com							
Name of Registered Service Provider:	Ms Madeline Mc Gowan							
Type of Service Registered:	Sessional		☒					
Date of Inspection:	1	1	0	5	2	0	2	1
No of Pre-School Children present during Inspection:	AM		14					
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Second Floor, Unit 4&5 Nexus Building, Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15.							
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms E Hosford							
Title:	Early Years Inspector							

Areas which were the subject of this Inspection		
Governance	Health Welfare and Development of Child	Safety

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	Madeline's Pre School & Childminding Service is a private childcare service which provides sessional education and care to children aged from 2 years 8 months to 5 years of age. The service operates from 9:15-12:15pm Monday to Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme.
Premises	The service is located in an urban area of Dublin city and operates from a purpose built care room situated to the rear of the registered providers residential home. The service has access to an enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.
Staffing	The service employs three members of staff to include the registered provider and two childcare staff. There were three staff present on the day of inspection working with the children.
Methodology	Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate (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. 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 areas of Governance, Health, Welfare and Development of Child and Safety. Inspections may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection process has been amended to minimise the amount of time that inspectors spend in the service. A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 19 health welfare and development of child and regulation 23 Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child. 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.
Acknowledgements	The Inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

GOVERNANCE

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.
- (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.
- (6) Paragraph (4) shall not apply before 1 September 2021 to a person who—
- (a) has signed a declaration on or before 30 June 2016 to the effect that he or she intends to retire from employment in a pre-school service before 1 September 2021, and
 - (b) is in possession of a letter from the Minister confirming that paragraph (4) shall not apply to him or her before that date
- (6A is inserted by S.I. No.632 of 2016 CHILD CARE ACT 1991 (EARLY YEARS SERVICES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2016 which states; Regulation 9 of the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations (S.I. No. 221 of 2016) is amended - in paragraph (4), by the substitution of "paragraphs (5), (6) and (6A)" for "paragraphs (5) and (6)", and (b) by the insertion of the following paragraph after paragraph (6): "
- (6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model, and (b) the employment of the employee is for the purpose of providing support, pursuant to the scheme referred to in subparagraph (a), for a child attending the service to enable the child to participate in the programme known as the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding Programme."
- (7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:
- (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;
 - (b) Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act, and
 - (c) these Regulations.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 9 - Management and Recruitment

Compliance Information:

- (1)(a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived and was present throughout the inspection.
- One discussion with the registered provider one new staff member had been employed in the service since the last inspection. The staff members file was reviewed;
- (2)(a) Two validated written references from a past employer.
- (b) Not applicable as no references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) A Garda vetting disclosure was available for the staff member.
- (d) International Police vetting was not required as documentary evidence available indicated that the staff member had not lived outside the state as an adult for more than six consecutive months.
- (4) The staff member had evidence to confirm that they held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.
- (6)(a)&(b) Not applicable, as no staff member had signed a declaration of the intent to retire from employment in a pre-school service before the 1st September 2021.
- (6)(A) Not applicable, as no staff were employed under the Access and Inclusion Model-Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) funding programme.
- (7)(a) Documentary evidence was available to demonstrate that the registered provider and the two childcare staff had been updated and received training in regard to the revised policies and procedures of the service, to include; Infection control risk, risk management and incident plan, training on hand washing, revised drop off and collection procedures and the procedures for cleaning and infection control. Training had been provided both online and through face to face meetings.

Part III - Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, Procedures etc. of Pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information:	The service had all of the policies, procedures and statements required under Schedule 5. Prior to the inspection the service had submitted the revised and updated policies and procedures to reflect changing practices due to Covid-19. Evidence was available to validate that parents had received the revised policies and procedures via text message prior to the reopening of the service. Policies and procedures specific to the service had been provided to the staff prior to the opening of the service.
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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.*
- (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) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)—*
- (c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

Compliance Information:	(1) The registered provider ensured that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the service. (3) The correct adult/child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. There were three adults caring for fourteen children throughout the inspection. (8)(c) Not applicable as this was not a single handed sessional service.
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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)

Basic Needs

- The food eaten by the children at snack time was provided by their parents, and was observed to be in keeping with the service's Healthy eating policy and consist of; fruit, yogurts, sandwiches, breadsticks, cheese and rolls. Water was the drink of choice and was available throughout the session.
- Independence with self-caring, washing their hands, caring for their belongings, tidying away after activities and putting on their coats was encouraged by the registered provider and staff members. Support was available when required and staff were observed being attentive to the individual needs of the children especially during hand hygiene before snack and tidying away blocks in the outdoor area.
- The service had incorporated outdoor play into their daily curriculum and for prolonged periods. On the day of inspection, the children ate their snack in the outdoor area and enjoyed the social interaction with their peers and teachers.
- A suitable rest area was available in the care room to enable children to rest and take a break from activities if required. The rest area consisted of a large soft padded mat with books.

Supporting Relationships around Children:

- The registered provider had been operating the service for thirty-six years with some of the current parents of children having attended as children.
- The registered provider maintained regular contact with parents via text message and all of the revised policies and procedures were sent prior to re-opening. A weekly message was sent to parents updating them on the weekly curriculum and the songs the children were learning.
- The staff members greeted each parent and child on their arrival and any information regarding play and development was verbally communicated at this exchange with any additional information communicated by phone or text message.
- The children were observed engaging and participating in the activities available during the session and appeared confident and happy in their surroundings. The staff used supportive language when speaking with the children with clear instructions given when it was time to tidy their play materials away before snack.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, Welfare and Development of Child

Physical and Material Environment

- The enclosed outdoor play area consisted of a concrete paved surface. The area was resourced with climbing frames, slides, climb through tunnel and large building blocks. A separate enclosed area called the 'fairy garden' was available and surfaced with stepping stones and a shingle surface. The area provided the children with the opportunity to play with kitchens, trucks, cars and playhouses. A garden awning was available to facilitate outdoor play during inclement weather. Adequate space was provided to enable the children to run, play and explore.
- Clearly defined interest areas were developed in the care room to include; a home corner (with dolls, changing table, car seats, high chair, dolls house with furniture), construction area (work bench, tools, nuts and bolts, cars, trucks, blocks, shape sorters), table top area (jigsaws, puzzles, threading spools and buttons, bead boards), rest area (soft padded mat with books).
- The low level shelving units in the care room ensured that the materials and equipment were freely available to the children.

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 external door of the care room and the gate in the outdoor area were secured to reduce the risk of a child exiting the service unsupervised and the unauthorised entry of an adult.
- All cleaning agents, hand sanitisers and sharp implements were stored safely and out of reach of children.
- Accident and Incident forms were available and demonstrated that parents had signed the form on collection of their child from the service.

Infection Control:

- A dedicated member of staff greeted each parent and child on their arrival and departure to the service. Parents were asked to follow distancing guidelines and remain at a designated area away from the service door.
- The staff were familiar with the systems and procedures in place in the event of; becoming unwell while on duty or on leave and if an adult or child became unwell during the day. A dedicated area had been identified and was available in the event of an adult or child becoming unwell during the day. The area was close to the exit door of the service, was ventilated with an openable door and window and a 2 metre distance could be maintained away from other people. Personal protective equipment (PPE) to include;

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

masks, single use disposable gloves and aprons were available in the event that they were required.

- Cleaning schedules were in operation within the care room, sanitary facility and outdoor area to ensure that regular cleaning of high contact areas such as door handles, taps, work tops, toilets and surfaces were cleaned throughout the day and after use. An adequate amount of cleaning materials were available within the service and were stored out of reach of children. Regular cleaning of play materials and equipment was observed during the inspection as per the service policy on infection control.
- The service had identified materials and equipment that were easily cleaned and sanitised for use within the care room and outdoor area, these included; jigsaws, jugs, bowls, building blocks and slides. A dedicated staff member was observed cleaning and sterilising play materials during the session.
- The care room and sanitary facility had windows to enable adequate ventilation of the areas.
- Adequate hand washing facilities were available in the sanitary facility and outdoor area used by the children, these included thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid soap, paper towels and foot operated pedal bins for the disposal of waste paper. Hand sanitiser was available throughout the service and was positioned in visible positions. The children were observed to wash their hands before snack.
- As per the service revised policy external visitors and parents were restricted and encouraged to visit the service out of childcare operational hours.
- Documentation available demonstrated that the service maintained the arrival and departure time of each staff member, child and visitor to the service should contact tracing be required.
- The service had space clothes available for all staff and children in the event they were required.
- A refrigerator was available to store children's perishable food items from home.

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 firefighting 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 of fire drills completed in the service. The last documented fire drill was the 6 May 2021. (1)(b) The number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was present in the service. Fire extinguishers were serviced on the 20 August 2020. (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.
Non-Compliance Information:	(1)(b) A record was not available of the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarms in the service. Battery operated smoke alarms are currently in place.
Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider	<u>Corrective Action</u> (1)(b) Installation of wired smoke alarm systems (time frame 6 months). <u>Preventive Action</u> (1)(b) A record to be kept of the number, type and maintenance of the smoke alarm in service until the battery alarms are replaced. <u>Evidence Submitted</u> (1)(b) Documentary evidence of the installation of smoke alarms in the service dated 03/07/2021.
Summary Comment:	The registered provider had documentation to demonstrate that a quotation had been provided for the installation of a wired smoke alarm system. The registered provider has submitted documentary evidence to address the non-compliance identified in Regulation 26. The regulatory requirement has been met.