

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS043
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Name of Service:	Mrs Giggles
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Address of Service:	Rear of 29 Boot Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D22 CX83
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ingrid McDonnell
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	08/06/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate - Tusla Child and Family Agency Brunel Building, Floor 7 Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	M Bermingham and S Quigley
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

Mrs Giggles is registered to provide sessional care for up to 40 children aged 2-6 years. Operating hours are 9:15 to 13:00 and three sessional times are offered at 9:15-12:15, 9:15-12:45 and 9:30-13:00. The service operates from a purposely adapted premises and consists of three rooms. ECCE room caters from children aged 2.5- 5 years, Bee room caters for children 3-5 years and Playgroup room caters for children aged 2-3. There is an enclosed outdoor area to the front of the building. The service is also registered to provide school aged care.

Staffing

There were eleven adults employed by the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection, six adults were working directly with children. The registered provider and person in charge arrived after the inspection commenced and the registered provider provided cover in the rooms as required. The service also employs one kitchen staff and two additional employees who work with school age children only.

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, and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required. The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9(1)(2)(3)(4), 11(1)(3), 19(1)(a)(b), 23, and 29(e). On

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inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under regulation 29(d) and 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.

Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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.*

(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.

(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 named person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The person in charge and or the deputy were rostered to be present on the premises for the duration of the opening hours
 - (c) A clear management structure was in place, as evidenced by observing the operation of the service and through discussion with staff.

(2)

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There were eleven adults employed by the service, of whom five commenced since the last inspection on 9 April 2025. This was determined through a review of previous inspection information, the current roster and discussions with staff. Recruitment vetting documentation was reviewed for the five newly commenced adults and the two adults working with school aged children only. Renewals of Garda vetting were reviewed for existing adults. The following vetting considerations were found:

- (a) Two written and verified references from past employers were available.
- (b) Two written and verified references from sources other than past employers were available.
- (c) Five new Garda vetting disclosures were available, as required, and renewals of Garda vetting disclosures were available in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate's regulatory notice requiring renewal every three years.
- (d) International police vetting was available for one adult who had lived outside the state for a period of more than six months as an adult.

(4)

Qualification records were reviewed for four staff working directly with children and it was found that the four staff held the required qualification.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)

- (a) & (b) Ten written and verified references were not available for five adults.

(3)

The procedures specified in regulation 9(2)(a) and (b) were not completed prior to five adults commencing in the service, as required. This was determined through a review of documentation. Allowing adults work with children before their suitability is established may result in individuals who are not appropriate having access to children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2)(a)(b) and (3)

The registered provider stated that missing reference and verification documents were re-obtained and that vetting documentation is now stored securely.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

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Summary Comment

The actions stated by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9. The regulatory requirements have been met.

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 directly with children at all times during the inspection.
- (3)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were six adults working with 23 children.

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*
- (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.*

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The following observations demonstrated how children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service and how appropriate and suitable care practices were in place:

Children ate a snack at 10:30 consisting of spaghetti, cauliflower and peas which was provided by the service and children enjoyed the meal in a relaxed manner while socialising with their friends and staff. Children drank water from their individual beakers and water was also made available throughout the morning from a jug. Children were supported with using the toilet and older children's independence was promoted appropriately. Children's nappies were changed once during the session and staff reported that additional nappy changes are carried out if needed. Children were physically active outside and wore light coats appropriate for the weather.

Children were guided by staff through the daily routine which was displayed in pictures for ease and children appeared familiar and content. Opportunities for play and activities were provided and children played with their peers and engaged in activities such as music and dance, and arts and crafts. Staff participated in children's play and activities encouraging and praising children. Staff were aware of children's individual needs, responding patiently and providing individual attention when needed. Children had freedom to move and choose what to play, and children's preferences were honoured while also being encouraged to participate. Staffs' interactions with children were playful and staff used children's names and comforted children in a kind gentle way. Staff were observed discussing children's day with parents at collection time and staff reported that further information about activities is shared with parents digitally.

The environment was bright and spacious and laid out in defined areas to include a cloakroom, imaginary and dress-up, sensory, construction, and arts and crafts areas. Each area was amply resourced with a variety of materials accessible to children laid out on low open shelving. A rest area was provided with a soft mat and a large cushion and books were available. The rooms were personal to children to include family pictures, their artwork, birthdays, and pictures and names on coat hooks. When outside children played with their friends on the slide, chasing and pushing a large ball, at the outside kitchen and on large wheeled toys.

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Non-Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

Warm running water was not provided for children to wash hands which potentially causes children discomfort. Water temperature measured at 10°C at 10:23 in taps for children's use in the sanitary area used by children in ECCE Bee and Playgroup room, and at 15.4°C at 11:36 in the sanitary area off ECCE room.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

19(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider stated that a plumber fixed an airlock in the system and that going forward a plumber will be notified promptly to address any issues with water temperature.

Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions stated by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliance identified under Regulation 19. This will be assessed on the next inspection.

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

The following measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and provide a safe environment, as evidenced by observation of practice, a review of the environment and documentation, and through discussion with staff:

General Safety:

- The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or children exiting the service unsupervised.
- The outdoor area was enclosed and secure.
- Low large windowpanes were painted to increase visibility for children.
- Cord blinds were secured.
- Cables and flexes were secured and out of reach of children and the TV was securely mounted.

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- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children on high shelves.
- The kitchen and storage area doors were secured and inaccessible to children.
- Toys and play equipment were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- The premises, environment, equipment and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition and cleaning schedules were displayed.
- Liquid soap and dispensed paper towels were available for hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated that they were familiar with the procedure and practices in place for the administration of medication including emergency medication.
- Medication was stored within expiry dates, in its original container and out of reach of children.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency escape routes and exits were unobstructed and clearly signposted.
- Staff outlined the procedures to evacuate children in the event of a fire and knew the location of the assembly point, in line with the services procedures that were displayed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. A large sheet of weed barrier fabric which was heavily frayed was wrapped around the legs of the play kitchen unit and draped across the ground where children were playing. This is a trip hazard posing risk of injury to children.

Infection Control:

In Playgroup room, a child drank intermittently from a bottle of milk that remained at room temperature from 09:49 to 12:00, posing a risk of bacteria multiplying in the milk which would cause illness.

2. Effective hand washing was not facilitated within the service, posing a risk of cross contamination. This was evidenced as follows:
 - Adults and children in ECCE and Playgroup did not wash their hands after nappy changing in six instances.
 - Children in Playgroup did not wash their hands before snack.
3. In ECCE room, children and adults used their hands multiple times to open bin lids when disposing of waste, instead of using the foot pedal on the bin as required, posing a risk of cross-contamination.

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4. Some practices observed during nappy changing posed a risk of cross- contamination. Four children were redressed by staff who continued wearing gloves that were used to remove a used nappy, instead of removing the gloves on disposal of the used nappy, as required. This is at variance with the service's nappy changing policy on display.
5. In Bee room, the leather couches were heavily torn on one arm exposing the interior padding, preventing effective cleaning.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that :

1. The weed barrier was removed and its use discontinued.
2. 3 & 4: Staff were trained in infection control; management will supervise and monitor infection control practices daily.
- 5 New chairs were purchased; going forward fixtures and fittings will be monitored and any damages repaired promptly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions stated by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23. The regulatory requirements have been met

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (d) Cleaned, maintained and repaired as required*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

- (e) The service was equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. There were 2 nappy changing units to cater for 16 children requiring nappy changing.

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Non-Compliance Information

(d)

1. There were three holes in the ground in the outside play area; two beside the kitchen play area and one on the paving area containing a pipe.
2. The door between Bee and Playgroup rooms was heavily chipped with paint missing and there was a build-up of sticky residue on the surface.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(d) The registered provider stated that:

1. The holes in the kitchen play area were filled in and covered with an artificial surface and permanent matting will be laid down. The hole in the paving area was covered with a grid.
2. The door was sanded and repainted and staff were reminded to clean the door after using sticky tape.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions stated by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29. The regulatory requirements have been met