

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY161
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Name of Service:	Ozanam House Early Learning Centre
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Address of Service:	53 Mountjoy Square West.
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Eircode:	D01 T6W6
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Name of Registered Provider:	Rose McGowan
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	15/07/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	5	PM	N/A
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St John's Road West, Kilmainham, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	JA. McKimm
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).

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Description of service

Ozanam House Early Learning Centre is a community service located in inner city Dublin. The service is registered to provide early childhood care and education to a maximum of 33 children aged 2-6 years. The service is registered to open from 8.45am-5.15pm Monday to Friday and is currently operating from 8.45am -2.00pm. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme from 9:00am-12:00pm, 38 weeks of the year. The service operates from three rooms in a mixed-use building which provides a range of community-based services. The Meerkat room is located on the ground floor while the Koala room and the Dolphin room are located on the lower ground floor; due to lower number of children attending the service only the Koala room was open on the day of inspection. A school age service is also provided. Children have access to a large hall on the ground floor of the centre and an outdoor space in an internal courtyard located at the lower ground floor which includes partially covered areas.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work in the service. Six adults are employed including the person in charge, the deputy person in charge who is also the centre manager and four early years practitioners who work directly with children. A volunteer, who is a former staff member also provides support to the service. On the morning of inspection, the person in charge was providing staffing cover in the Kaola room until a staff member commenced work. The centre manager and a volunteer were also present in the service.

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

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This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance and 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. 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 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,*

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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.

(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) The registered provider ensured that;

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and named person to deputise as required.
- (b) A review of the roster showed either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service.

(2) Following a review of previous inspection information, information available on inspection and discussion with the person in charge it was determined that three new staff members had been employed since the previous inspection. The files of the three new staff were reviewed. In addition, garda vetting for four adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal were requested for review.

- (a) Six validated written references were available from recent past employers.
- (c) Garda vetting was available for seven adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) There was no evidence to show that any of the three adults required police vetting.

(3) Evidence was available to demonstrate that the procedures specified in paragraph (2) were carried out in relation to three adults before employment commenced.

(4) Three adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children, Disability, and Equality.

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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.*
- (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*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured there was adequate staff available to the children at all times during the day for example one staff member was working directly with 5 children on the morning of inspection and the centre manager was available to provide support to the care room as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children.

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;*

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(i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.

(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-

(a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,

(b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and

(c) an authorised person.

Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that that a record in writing was maintained in respect of each of the seven pre-school children currently attending the service for (a)-(i).

(3) (c) All records and documentation requested by the inspection team were available for review.

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

(1) (a) The following activities, interactions, materials and equipment was observed to support children's learning and development:

Basic needs:

- Children's needs were met in a warm caring responsive manner, as a result children were observed to be confident in their environment for example, they chatted comfortably with the inspector about their activities and were keen to show the inspector an indoor planting projects that they were engaged in.
- Children were observed to have the opportunity to move freely through their care room and independently accessed play equipment of their choice.
- On the morning of the inspection children in the care rooms were served a snack of a wide selection fruits and crackers. Staff encouraged children to drink water which was accessible to children throughout the morning.

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Supporting Relationships

- Children's emotional well-being was supported by staff who showed an interest in children's activities by asking questions, taking part in their play, encouraging them to thank other children who had demonstrated kindness.
- Snack time was observed to be a sociable and enjoyable event, with staff members sitting alongside the children, engaging in meaningful conversations and offering support and encouragement to the children.
- Children's behaviour was managed using positive age-appropriate strategies such as intervening immediately when minor incidents arose, stating clear expected boundaries, and offering comfort when needed.
- Staff discussed how parents are welcomed into the service. The inspector observed staff to chat with parents at arrival time.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The furniture provided in the care room was low level and appropriate for children attending, with toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low-level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- The toys and equipment were grouped in themed areas of interest such as home area, mark making, construction and building. In the addition the care room had front facing bookshelves to facilitate language and early literacy
- Child sized tables and chairs were available to the children, providing a comfortable area to eat snacks and take part in tabletop activities.
- A small outdoor play area with a soft ground surface included two covered section one in which numeracy and literacy supporting equipment were placed and another which centred on imaginative play. A wide range of play props were available for children in this area.
- The children have daily access to an indoor hall, which is located on the ground floor of the service. A large range of climbing and balancing equipment, along with a range of bikes, scooters, hula hoops and balls support play in this area.

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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

The following safeguards were observed to be in place:

General Safety:

- On the unannounced arrival at the service by the inspectors, the entrance door leading into the premises was appropriately secured with keypad access to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises throughout the inspection. Access was controlled by a receptionist who greeted visitors to the service and requested that the inspector sign the visitors' book.
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to the children throughout the inspection.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and were not accessible to the children.
- There were no flexes or cables observed that were accessible to the children.

Infection Control:

- The premises was observed to be in a clean and hygienic condition.
- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care room and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained in the care room, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air

Fire Safety:

- On the day of inspection, it was observed that all fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction

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.

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Compliance Information

- (1) Three adults held up to date first aid responder certification and there was evidence to show that one of the three adults were rostered to be available to the children at all times during the operational hours of the service.
- (2) The registered provider ensured that:
 - (a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were easily identifiable and stored throughout the premises.
 - (b) The first aid boxes were easily accessible and readily available.

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.*
- (2) *The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
 - (c) *an authorised person.*

Compliance Information

- (1)
 - (a) The records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on 19 June 2026.
 - (b) Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment including smoke alarms had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on April 2026 and 28 May 2026 respectively.
- (2)
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the inspector.