

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH130
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Name of Service:	Daughters of Charity Mabuhay Early Childcare Development Service (Mosney)
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Address of Service:	Mosney Accommodation Centre, Mosney, Co. Meath
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Eircode:	A92 ED6V
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Name of Registered Provider:	Tracey Monson
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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	27	PM	13
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Hampton Court, Cootehill Road, Drumalee, Co Cavan. H12 YY84
Inspection undertaken by:	S Mc Kenna
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

Daughters of Charity Mabuhay Early Childcare Development Service (Mosney) is a sessional early years service which is conducted on the grounds of an accommodation centre for international protection applicants, with 900 residents accommodated on an 80-acre site in rural Co. Meath. There are 3 pre-school rooms in operation in the service, and a separate multi-lingual library and sensory room are also provided. The service is registered to accommodate a maximum of 50 pre-school children. A service is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years for 38 weeks each year and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme, currently providing a morning session which runs from 8.45 am to 12.15 pm and an afternoon session which runs from 12.15 pm to 3.15 pm each weekday. School-aged children are not accommodated in the service.

Staffing

The service employs a total of 11 staff members, including a service manager. Nine of these 11 staff members work directly with the pre-school children, while one staff member is employed to carry out cleaning duties, and one staff member is a senior manager who is based at another site. The registered provider is the director of the not-for-profit child and family public service organisation and does not work directly with the children attending 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/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under Regulation 9 Management & Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing Levels, Regulation 16 Record in relation to Pre-school Service, Regulation 19 Health, Welfare & Development of Child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of Child, Regulation 25 First Aid, Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures and Regulation 28 Insurance.

However, on inspection, an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the 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*

(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.

Compliance Information

(1) (a) The service had a designated person in charge, who is the service manager and a named person to deputise in their absence.

(b) Following discussion with the person in charge, it was confirmed that when the preschool service was in operation, the designated person in charge or the named person in charge was on the premises.

(2) The files for 11 staff were reviewed.

(a) (b)

A total of 19 written and validated references from a previous employer were on file.

A total of 3 written and validated references from a reputable source were on file.

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(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for the 11 staff. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years for 11 employed staff.

(d) A review of the employment history for 11 staff demonstrated that 4 adults had lived outside the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months as an adult. The required police vetting for the 4 staff members was available on file.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that 10 staff employed by the service to work with children held an appropriate childcare qualification at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

A qualification for the cleaner is not required, as they are not employed to work directly with children.

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) On the day of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspector arrived unannounced and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed;

In the Elephant Room in the morning, one adult cared for 11 children aged 3 years 7 months to 5 years 3 months on a sessional basis. In the afternoon, one adult cared for 5 children aged 2 years 2 months to 2 years 8 months on a sessional basis.

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In the Giraffe Room in the morning, two adults cared for 9 children aged 3 years 10 months to 5 years 11 months on a sessional basis. In the afternoon, two adults cared for 4 children aged 2 years 11 months to 3 years on a sessional basis.

In the Lion Room in the morning, one adult cared for 7 children aged 4 years 3 months to 4 years 9 months on a sessional basis. In the afternoon, one adult cared for 4 children aged 2 years 11 months to 3 years 8 months on a sessional basis.

In addition to the above, the service manager helps in the care rooms when required.

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;*
- (i) details of staff rosters 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) A record in writing was kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) Details of attendance of each pre-school child who attends the service.
- (i) Details of a weekly staff roster, detailing the staff working hours.
- (j) The service manager advised that medication is not usually administered unless in an emergency, for which they have anti-febrile medication onsite, or where a child's care plan requires administration of medication. Records were available for review.

Non-Compliance Information

(k) Records of accidents and incidents reviewed included a total of 8 records. One record did not contain a parental signature to demonstrate that the parent had been advised about the accident/incident that had occurred when collecting their child from the service.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The accident/incident record was reviewed immediately by the manager. The parent was contacted and the record was signed retrospectively. All accident and incident records were audited by the manager to ensure no other records were missing signatures. A revised end-of-session procedure has been implemented requiring staff to check that all accident/incident forms are completed and signed by the parent/guardian before the child leaves the setting wherever possible. This will be verified and filed immediately after being signed.

The procedure has been discussed with all staff during a team meeting, and staff have been reminded of their responsibilities under Regulation 16 regarding accurate and complete record keeping. The Manager will undertake monthly audits of accident and incident records for the next three months to ensure ongoing compliance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Records demonstrating the update of changes with staff. An updated checklist to include review of daily records.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliance in Regulation 16 (1)(k).

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.*

Compliance Information

The following examples demonstrate how children's learning, development and well-being were facilitated in the service:

Basic Needs

Snack items are provided by the service. A snack of toast, yoghurts, fruit and crackers was provided to the children, and each care room had its snack at various times in the morning. Drinking water was available at all times. The children were encouraged to use the toilet by themselves, with younger children supported where required. Nappy changing is carried out in line with children's individual routines. Aprons were provided for messy

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play, and children had changes of clothes for when their clothes became soiled. Rest areas to include soft child-sized sofas and cushions were available in all care rooms for children to rest during their time in preschool. The children in all three care rooms spent the majority of their day in the outdoor area, returning inside to wash their hands and have their snack, before returning to the outdoor area. Individual care plans are in place where required. Children's interests, which were on display, were incorporated into the curriculum planning within the care rooms. The children's artwork, family photos and birthday charts were displayed in their care rooms, providing a sense of identity and belonging to the children.

Supporting Relationships

The atmosphere upon the inspector's arrival was warm and welcoming, the children were busy playing outdoors, and some came to say hello to the inspector and showed what toys they were playing with. The children demonstrated familiarity with those who cared for them. Opportunities for siblings to play together was facilitated through joint outdoor play time. The staff used gentle encouragement for children to be mindful of other children's feelings and encouraged the sharing of toys. The staff spoke gently and used age-appropriate strategies to help children find positive solutions to any problems they had, such as turn-taking with toys. The staff were observed to demonstrate sensitivity, warmth and positive regard for children and their families, through respecting parental wishes while also respecting children's individual preferences and choice. The staff were observed to communicate using gentle positive tones in their interactions with the children. Communication with parents is in person upon arrival and collection times. Upon arrival, the parents leave their children with staff at the entrance door and observed under staff approval to enter the care rooms and outdoor area at collection time, where conversations about the child's day between staff and parents were observed.

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 main entrance door was secured upon the inspector's arrival. The entrance door remained locked when not in use during the inspection, ensuring no unauthorised person could enter the building or no child could leave the building unsupervised. A visitor log was maintained, and the inspector was requested to sign in and out upon arrival and departure. Ground surfacing, both indoor and outdoor, was maintained in a good state of repair with

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no trip hazards observed. Storage areas were inaccessible to children through the placement of high-key locks on the care rooms, store room and kitchen doors. Cleaning products were stored safely out of the reach of children. Play equipment and resources were observed to be maintained in good condition. The children were adequately supervised throughout the inspection process. The outdoor area was fenced with secured gates to prevent a pre-school child from gaining unsupervised access to a roadway or other source of danger and to prevent unauthorised access to the garden or external play area. Risk assessments were completed up to date. Blind cords where they were fitted were out of reach of children. Fire exits remained free from obstruction during the inspection.

Infection Control:

The inspector observed the following infection control measures in practice within the service:

Handwashing was observed to take place after the children used the toilet and before snack time.

Thermostatically controlled warm water, hand soap, bins, and paper towels were available at each wash hand basin. The service was well kept, with all care rooms and sanitary areas observed to be maintained in a clean and hygienic manner. Cleaning schedules were in place, up to date and completed by the relevant staff. Care rooms and sanitary areas are ventilated through a mixture of mechanical ventilation and openable windows. Tables were cleaned before and after snack time. External waste bins were stored securely and were inaccessible to children.

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) The registered provider ensured that a person who held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. Seven staff members held in-date FAR training certificates, four of whom were rostered to work on the day of inspection.

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(2) (a) & (b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available in each care room, with additional supplies stored in the manager's office. First aid boxes were stored in accessible and conspicuous locations out of the reach of children.

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 record of fire drills that take place monthly was available. The most recent fire drill was recorded on the day of inspection. The fire alarm maintenance company carried out an unannounced fire drill, and the preschool service evacuated the care rooms as per their procedure. A role call was conducted, and approval was given before children and staff could return indoors.
- (b) The annual maintenance certificate for the fire extinguishers was dated 29 April 2026, and the smoke alarms were dated 01 December 2025.
- (4) The fire evacuation procedures were displayed on walls throughout the service, which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider had insurance cover in place for 50 pre-school children attending the service on a sessional basis between the hours of 8.45 am and 3.30 pm. The policy showed that the service had insurance in place from 30 September 2025 to 29 September 2026.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated

Non-Compliance Information

(c) The care room temperatures on the day of inspection were recorded between 21 – 23.5°C. It is acknowledged that the staff and children spent most of their time outside on the day of inspection, and staff advised that when the room gets too warm, they tend to spend more time outside. The Lion room had openable windows and a cooling fan present, the Giraffe room had openable windows, a mechanical ventilation system and a small cooling fan, and the Elephant room had mechanical ventilation and a cooling fan. The temperature controlling methods in place in each care room was insufficient at maintaining the room temperature at a maximum of 22°C.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Following the inspection, the management team reviewed the findings relating to care room temperatures. Immediate measures have been implemented to minimise the impact of elevated temperatures within the centre. These include: The purchase of additional suitable cooling equipment of high-quality cooling fans to improve temperature regulation in all care rooms. Continued use of existing ventilation systems, openable windows, and natural ventilation where safe and appropriate. Increased monitoring of room temperatures throughout the day using room thermometers, with temperatures recorded during periods of warmer weather. Where temperatures begin to rise, staff will implement additional control measures, including adjusting ventilation, using cooling equipment, encouraging regular hydration for children and staff, and modifying the daily routine where appropriate. Building upgrade works have commenced, which include the installation of an improved ventilation system designed to better regulate internal temperatures and maintain compliance with regulatory requirements.

To ensure ongoing compliance and prevent recurrence, the following measures will be implemented: A new upgraded ventilation system will be completed as part of the current facility improvement works to provide more effective long-term temperature control. The centre's Temperature Management/Risk Assessment will be reviewed and updated to include clear procedures for monitoring and responding to elevated room temperatures. Room temperatures will be monitored and recorded during warmer weather, with management reviewing records to ensure temperatures remain within acceptable limits. Cooling equipment will be included in the centre's maintenance schedule to ensure it remains in good working order.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Receipts for purchase of fans. A quotation for upgrades to ventilation. Copy of agenda to include discussion of ventilation works. Updated daily risk assessment templates to include room temperature checks.

Summary Comment

The response from the registered provider and supporting documentation submitted have adequately addressed the non-compliances in Regulation 29 (c).