

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC396
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sunny Days Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Frankfield Community Complex, Frankfield, Cork, Co Cork
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<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 V440
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ciara Casey
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	09/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	38	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	13 Market Square Mallow Co Cork P51 DD5Y
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	B Fraher and D Cotter
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
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### Description of service

Sunny Days Montessori School is a sessional early years service, that caters for children aged two to six years. The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme is facilitated over 38 weeks of the year. The service operates from 8.45 am to 12.15pm and from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The service is situated in a suburban area and is provided from a single storey, detached modular building. The premises includes two care rooms, namely the Ladybirds room and the Ducklings room, with adjacent sanitary facilities for children and staff. An enclosed outdoor play environment is available at the front, side and part of the back of the building.

### Staffing

There were eight staff attached to the service, two of whom were students. This included the registered provider. All staff were working directly with the children on the day of inspection.

### 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 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.

### Additional Information

Following the receipt of two Corrective Action and Preventative Action plans (CAPA) a Regulatory Compliance meeting was held on 02 December 2025 with the Registered Provider in order to clarify non-compliant issues which had not been addressed via the CAPA process.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the children, registered provider and staff 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,*
- (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 on the day of inspection and a named deputy in the service that could deputise as required.
  - (b) The registered provider was on duty at the service when the inspector arrived. The registered provider or the deputy was on duty at all times during the hours of operation.
  - (c) There was clear evidence on inspection of the management structure in place and the specific roles of each staff member. This was on display on the wall.
- (2) The recruitment records in relation to eight adults, six of whom were employed in the service, including the registered provider and two of whom were students, were the subject of inspection.
- (a) Of the 16 required references, 8 were from previous employers with required records of validation on file.
  - (b) Of the 16 required references, 8 were from a source other than a past employer with required records of validation on file.
  - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were obtained and were on file for six of the eight staff. Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for six staff. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was available for three of the eight adults as they lived outside of the state for longer than six consecutive months and was available.

(4) The six adults who worked directly with the children held a relevant qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education from level 5 to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)

(d) Police vetting was not available for one adult who resided outside of the jurisdiction for a period longer than six months.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement was received by the registered provider:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The police vetting was located, and all files will be checked.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of police vetting received.

### Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted has addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(d).

## 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 following policy was reviewed:

- Policy on infection control

The policy contained the information required to guide staff in their care practices for the 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) At the time of inspection, there was an adequate number of adults responsible for the direct care and supervision of the children in attendance at the times.

(3) The adult to child ratio were observed to meet the minimum requirement over the duration of the inspection.

The ratio was as follows:

- The Ladybird room had 21 children being cared for by 4 adults in the morning.
- The Duckling room had 17 children being cared for by 4 adults in the morning.

### 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;*

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

### Compliance Information

(1) (a-i) Fifty-six children were registered to attend the service. A sample of 10 children's records were assessed and reviewed. The records were found to contain all the required information.

## 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

At the time of the inspection, the following information was obtained through direct observation, review of documents and in conversation with staff members:

#### Basic needs:

(1)(a)

- The layout of the care room supported the children to move freely within their environment and to engage in their chosen tasks.
- Food was prepared by parents and guardians and consisted of sandwiches, pasta, fruit, crackers and cheese. Perishable foods were stored in the refrigerator and was observed to be healthy and nutritious.
- The staff were observed helping and assisting the children where necessary at snack time.
- Drinking water was available to the children throughout the morning.
- Appropriate seating was used in the form of low-level tables and chairs.
- The children were observed accessing the toilet independently with staff available to provide assistance should it be required.
- A tissue box was available at the children's level allowed them to encourage them to attend to their own personal hygiene.

### Supporting relationships:

- During snack time, the staff sat with the children in a relaxed environment, affording sufficient time for children to enjoy their food. Staff discussed topics of interest with the children during mealtimes.
- Throughout the morning, staff in both care rooms were heard engaging in social conversation with the children, which helped to promote a happy atmosphere.
- Interactions between staff and children in the care rooms was observed to be warm and sensitive. Examples included staff members communicating positively with children in soft and gentle tones, offering reassurance by sitting near children and lowering to their level.
- Staff were seen to read and sing with the children and assist when needed when painting, playing with modelling dough and building puzzles which supported positive relationships with the children and language development.
- Various methods of communication were used to link with parents and guardians such as via telephone, email and communication at collection and drop off. The inspector was informed that parents were given a handbook and policies of the service.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

*(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child 19 to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) The two care rooms were suitably resources with age-appropriate equipment, which was readily available to the children on low set open shelving at floor level. Material such as jigsaws, connectable shapes, art, moulding dough and play kitchen promoted exploration and learning through various types of play.
- Tables and chairs throughout the service were appropriate to the age and stage of development of the pre-school children attending and were in sufficient supply.

There was one outdoor environment divides into two separate area to the front, side and rear of the premises and comprised of artificial grass, shock absorbing surface and tarmac. A selection of ride on toys, a slide, a sand area, music wall and mud kitchen were available.

(b)  
A rest area was available in each of the care rooms. Children who wished to rest while they attended the service could avail of a floor mat and cushion in the room.

### 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:

- When the inspectors arrived, the entrance gate to the premises was secure. This restricted unauthorised access to the building and reduced the risk of children exiting unsupervised.
- The toys and play equipment assessed were in good condition.
- Cleaning agents were stored out of reach of the children.
- The care room windows inspected were adequately secured to ensure a child could not exit

##### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were accessible to the children with warm running water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- Tables were cleaned before and after snack time.
- Children's bags and coats were stored off the ground.
- A refrigerator was available in both care room for the storage of perishable foods.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not observed to be administered to the children on the day of inspection.  
One child was prescribed emergency medication. Consent for administering this medication was obtained and staff informed the inspector they felt competent to administer this.

##### Fire Safety:

- All fire extinguishers observed were wall mounted.
- All fire exits were unobstructed.
- The fire assembly point was clearly labelled in the outdoor area.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for all the adults; however, two vetting disclosures were not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspector Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

#### Infection Control:

2. The Inspector observed the children in the Ladybirds room to be assisted by a staff member to wash their hand before snack without using the available liquid soap. Ineffective hygienic handwashing poses a risk of infection to children.

3. A staff member was observed to not wash their hand after assisting a child to wipe his nose. This posed a risk of cross contamination and cross infection.

4. Lidded pedal bins were not in use for the disposal of waste in the service care rooms. A staff member was observed to touch the lid of the bin when disposing of a tissue. This posed a risk of cross contamination and cross infection.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement has been received by the registered provider:

#### General Safety:

1. Vetting has been applied for and will be checked annually.
2. Three sinks will be used in the service at handwashing using soap. This is being discussed with staff.

#### Infection Control:

3. Staff will wash hands after assisting nose cleaning and staff will be reminded to do this.
4. A pedal operated bin was purchased and will be replaced if needed.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### General Safety:

1. No evidence of application for the named persons was received.
2. Photo of children washed hands received.
3. The response from the registered provider is accepted.
4. A photograph of the pedal operated bin was received.

### Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted in the CAPA response by the registered provider had not addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 23(1) as no evidence of applications for the named persons were received. It is acknowledged that prior to a regulatory compliance meeting, the registered provider submitted evidence of application for both named persons. One outstanding Garda vetting has been received and one remains outstanding. The registered provider has agreed to forward this to the office of the inspectorate on receipt. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

### 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 fire fighting 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.
- (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) The inspector was provided with a list of monthly fire drills which were recorded in writing. The most recent fire drill undertaken was dated 10 September 2025.
  - (2)
  - (c) All available records were furnished to the inspector on request.
  - (4)
- There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed at the entrance door to the service.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b) The last available record for the premises of an annual maintenance of the smoke alarms was dated 17 April 2023 and certification for servicing for the firefighting equipment was dated September 2022. This poses a risk to the safety of children attending the service in the event of fire. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarms was also unavailable at the last inspection on 21 February 2023. The corrective action submitted following the inspection on 21 February 2023 failed to prevent the recurrence of this non –compliance.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The following statement has been received by the registered provider:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Fire equipment has been serviced and will be serviced yearly.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of the servicing of the fire extinguishers received.

### Summary Comment

The corrective action submitted in the CAPA response by the registered provider had not addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 26, as no proof of maintenance of smoke alarms was received. It is acknowledged that prior to a regulatory compliance meeting, the registered provider submitted evidence of maintenance of the smoke alarm on the 26 November 2025. This has now addressed the non-compliance identified under Regulation 26. This will be reviewed on next inspection.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The insurance certificate indicated that sufficient cover was in place for the provision of a Montessori service and the policy was valid until the 27 November 2025.