

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR014		
Name of Service:	Pixies Montessori		
Address of Service:	Foxborough, 54 Shanganagh Vale, Cabinteely, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D18 A627		
Name of Registered Provider:	Daphne Lynch		
Service type:	Part Time		
Date(s) of Inspection:	13/01/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM 27
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla – Child & Family Agency Loughlinstown Health Centre Loughlinstown Drive County Dublin.		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Pixies Montessori is registered to provide part-time and sessional care and education to pre-school children aged 2-6 years of age. The early years service is privately owned and operates Monday to Friday from 9am to 2pm—with a concurrent sessional service operating from 9am to 12.30pm. The service is located adjacent to the registered provider's home in a residential area of Cabinteely south county Dublin. Children have access to an outdoor play area to the front and rear of the premises.

Staffing

Four staff including the registered provider are employed to work directly with the children.

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, information and records, health, welfare and development of child, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a Pre-School Child.

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 registered provider, 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*

(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,*
- (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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) At all times during the inspection the registered provider was on the premises.
- (2) The inspection process included a review of files for two new staff members who were employed since the last inspection on the 20 September 2021 and Garda vetting disclosures were inspected for all staff employed to work in the service.
- (a) In total four written validated references from past employers were available.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all staff. These were dated within the previous three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (4) Records were available evidencing the new staff members employed to work directly with the children held at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education.

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.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) An adequate number of adults were working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection. There were twenty-seven pre-school children attending the service being supervised by four adults.

(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured at least two adults are on the premises at all times.

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 sample of eleven records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
- (b) The date on which the child first attended the service.
- (c) There was an area on the registration form where the date when a child would cease to attend the service will be recorded.
- (d) The names, addresses and telephone number of parents were recorded and information where parents can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service were also available.
- (e) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
- (f) The record available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
- (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
- (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
- (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.

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)

Each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school. Children were observed to be actively engaged in a painting activity during the morning. Play was child-led and children were observed choosing their own activities during free-play. Calm interactions between children and the staff present were observed and children were supported to interact appropriately with each other.

Children used the toilet independently while being closely supervised by staff. Children were observed eating a variety of healthy snacks which were provided by parents; drinking water was readily available to children.

Children were familiar with their care givers and the daily routine. Staff interacted warmly with the children in their care throughout the inspection and they demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care.

The two rooms in the service were arranged with child sized tables and chairs and low-level shelving with a large range of developmentally appropriate equipment and materials which were well organised and easily accessible. Equipment and materials included Montessori equipment, puzzles, blocks, and fine motor skills toys. All children were given an opportunity to spend time in the outdoor play area during the morning. The outdoor area was safely secured. Children were observed enjoying playing imaginary games together. A variety of play equipment was available including table-top activities, a small slide and climbing frame, ride-in cars, balls, balancing steps and an art board.

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) A person trained in first aid for children was at all times, available to the children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider and another staff member had First Aid Responder training certificates that were valid until 30 August 2026.
- (2) (a), (b) The first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and available to the children attending the pre-school at all times.

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.*
- (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 the monthly fire drills and the last fire drill recorded was on the 10 January 2025.
- (b) There was a record to show that testing of the fire detection and alarm system and fire fighting equipment had taken place on the 8 November 2024.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the service