

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR023			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bright Minds Childcare and Montessori School Ltd			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	128 Balally Drive, Dundrum, Dublin 16, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D16 P025			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Stephanie Gratton			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/09/2024			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	45	PM	30
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Sarah Quigley & Fiona Carty			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector(s)			
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>				
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>	Not applicable			

### Description of service

Bright Minds Childcare & Montessori School was first established in 2004 and has been operated by the current registered provider since 2020. The service is located in a residential area of Dundrum, South Co. Dublin. The service is registered to provide full day, part-time and sessional care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years. The hours of operation are from Monday to Friday between 08:00 and 18:00. The premises is a two storey purposely adapted residential property. Care and education are provided across four care rooms, three of which are located in the main building and one in a separate building to the rear of the premises which children are allocated to by age range and stage of development. An enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises.

### Staffing

The service currently employs 11 staff members, including the registered provider and a cook. On the day of inspection 8 adults were present. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection but attended an online feedback meeting the following day which was held remotely.

### 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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 15, 16, 19, and 23; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 27, 29, and 30. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 and 16.

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

The designated person in charge was unable to attend a feedback meeting at the close of inspection as they were directly engaged in the care of the children. As the registered provider was unavailable, an online feedback meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 remotely to provide feedback following the inspection.

## Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish 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

*(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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following:*

*(a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

#### Compliance Information

(2) Documentation was reviewed in respect of the 10 adults currently working in the service. Records for the registered provider were reviewed on previous inspections of the service and was compliant so were not re-assessed. The following records were available for the adults:

(a) (b)

The registered provider demonstrated that they had verified the references obtained from 2 sources for 6 of the adults.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for each of the 10 adults. 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 as outlined under Regulation 23.

- (4) Six of the adults held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications. One of the adults did not require a relevant qualification as they did not work directly with the children. One adult who did not have the required qualification was in possession of a letter of eligibility to practice from the Minister of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2) The registered provider did not ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children as follows:

(a) (b)

- There were no references available for 4 of the adults.

(d)

- Although documents were available for 3 of the adults which appeared to be international police vetting, the contents of the documents could not be verified by the inspectors as they were not written in the English language.

(3) A review of documentation evidenced the registered provider had not taken the required steps as outlined in Regulation 9(2)(a)(b)(d) to ensure that new recruits were suitable and competent before allowing them access to children, as detailed above.

(4) There was no evidence available to show that 1 of the adults who were working directly with the children held a relevant major award in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Framework of Qualifications.

(7) Regulation 9(7) was included as part of this inspection to assess previous corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following non-compliance identified on the last inspection of the service. Through a review of documentation and discussions with 2 staff members who had recently commenced employment in the service it was evidenced that no formal induction training had taken place for the adults. The staff were did not receive appropriate information and training on the policies and procedures in place in the service prior to commencing employment which may directly impact on the care provided to the children.

The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the previous inspection of the service on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 did not prevent the re-occurrence of the non-compliance identified under Regulation 9(2)(a)(b) and (7).

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

The registered provider provided the following response:

## Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a)(b)(d)
- References were obtained and verified. Some references the provider had but had not been filed correctly. Police vetting was translated. The provider will ensure all references are obtained, verified and filed correctly before a new employee commences.
- (4) The staff member working that day holds a Level 5 Special Needs Assistant qualification. This member of staff does not normally work with our early years children and is employed as after school support. The adult will not work with the early years children as the service have agency staff now employed. Any staff member who does not hold an ECCE qualification will not work with the early years children. Rooms will be closed if the service are short staffed and unable to get agency staff.
- (7) The two staff members received formal induction training over several days. All new members of staff will receive a detailed induction when they commence work and in a timely manner.

## Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

## Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has 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.*
- (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.*

## Non-Compliance Information

- (1)

An adequate number of adults were not working directly with the pre-school children attending the service during the inspection as the minimum ratio of adults to children was not maintained at all times in the Montessori full day care room, the Toddler room, and the Preschool ECCE room at times as outlined below.

(2)

The registered provider did not ensure that the minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained in the service at all times throughout the inspection. An insufficient number of adults were available to the children attending on a full day and part time care basis in 3 care rooms at times as outlined below:

- One adult was caring for 2 children aged 2 years and 7 children aged 3+years in the Montessori room for the duration of the inspection.
- One adult was caring for 8 children aged 2 years in the Toddler room from 8:46am to 9:00am on the day of inspection.
- One adult was caring for 18 preschool children aged 3 to 4 years from 11:58 to 12:11 while 1 staff member left to collect school aged children from school.
- Two adults were caring for 6 preschool children and 29 school aged children from 2:30pm in the Preschool room.

The required ration is 1:6 for children aged 2 years and 1:8 for children aged 3 to 6 years.

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

The registered provider provided the following response:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Agency staff were in from the following day and have been in since. Interviews are taking place. If there is a shortage of staff and/or agency staff call in sick or cannot be acquired, rooms will be closed as needed. The service provider or other staff will cover in a room when it is over ratio. Rooms will be closed if agency staff and staffing levels cannot be obtained.
2. There are two staff members are working in the Montessori room. The registered provider goes out to the Toddler Room if one adult has more than 6 children. Agency staff members often start at 8.30am meaning there are two adults in the room from 8.30am. Staff or the service provider will cover a room if another member of staff needs to tend to a child. Preschool children are never with after school children. The service were short staffed and a room should have been closed. This has not happened since.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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

A sample of 12 records of preschool children maintained in the service were reviewed by the inspectors to assess compliance. The documentation reviewed evidenced that each of the records detailed all of the required information outlined under Regulation 15(1) (a) to (i) detailed above.

## 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)
- (h) A record was available in each care room on an online application detailing the attendance of each preschool child on the day of inspection.
  - (i) An accurate staffing roster was available in the service detailing hours of work for each staff member on the day of inspection.
  - (j) A sample of documentation was reviewed detailing medication which had been administered to children attending the service. The documentation contained all of the necessary details, including parental signatures.
  - (k) A sample of documentation was reviewed detailing accidents and incidents which had occurred in the service. The documentation contained all of the necessary details, including evidence that parents/guardians had been informed when an incident occurred.

### 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

A healthy eating policy was in place in the service. Staff stated breakfast, snacks, and a hot lunch are provided by the service for children attending on a part time and full day care basis. Children availing of the ECCE programme in the Preschool and Montessori rooms take a morning snack in from home.

The staff managed minor disagreements between the children in a competent and positive manner. Children were supported to be independent in their environment including using the toilet independently, cleaning up following mealtimes and play and washing hands before meals. Babies were held during bottle feeding and were placed to sleep in accordance with their needs.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available to the rear of the premises with a shock absorbent surfacing. The area was adequately resourced with a variety of play equipment.

The care rooms were sufficiently resourced with a variety of equipment and materials which were all arranged on low level shelving units, facilitating the children's choice of play.

### Non-Compliance Information

The registered provider did not ensure that each child's development and wellbeing was facilitated at points during the day as evidenced by the following:

1. At 11.50am 2 staff began to settle 7 children to sleep. Between 11.50am and 1.05pm all of the children were observed at various times getting out of their beds, running around the room, jumping on beds, climbing on furniture resulting in them injuring themselves and each other. During this time one child was asleep and staff were attempting to soothe others to sleep. Staff repeatedly told children to get into their beds and lie down, which was at variance with the behaviour management policy of the service.
2. During the designated sleep time a child attending the Toddler room did not routinely sleep. Staff reported the child usually attends the Preschool room during this time but was unable to during the inspection due to issues with adult to child ratios on the day. The child remained sitting at a table in the darkened care room for the hour-long period and was provided with two books and five blocks to play with. The staff members interacted with the child sporadically during this period and repeatedly reminded the child to be quiet.
3. There were no blankets offered in the Toddler room at sleep time to provide comfort to the children.
4. Self-feeding was not promoted in the Baby room for some children aged over 1 year at mealtimes. Staff were observed holding some children's food out of reach of the child and spoon feeding them.

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

The registered provider provided the following response:

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. As this had never happened before it was discussed with all staff members that beds should be put away if the children are continuously getting out of them. It has not happened since but if one or two children

are not asleep by 12.30pm they are taken up from their beds. The service provider helps with sleep time from 12pm. Staff have been reminded of the behaviour policy and have been emailed the behaviour policy again. This will also be discussed at the staff meeting on October 7th.

2. The child has not been in the toddler room at sleep time since that day. The service provider informed staff that a child should not be taken out of their normal routine regardless of ratios. The service provider gave ideas to the staff members on what toys/activities to bring out for children that are not asleep by 12.30pm. This will be discussed at a team meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> October.
3. Blankets are provided to the children and this has been discussed with staff that blankets are to be offered.
4. Staff are placing the food in front of the children to foster independence. Checks are being completed and staff members have been spoken to about this.

### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### **Summary Comment**

The regulatory requirement has been met.

## 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 inspector found by observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard children attending:

#### **General Safety:**

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. Cleaning products and hazardous materials were stored securely out of reach of the children.

#### **Infection Control:**

An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy.

### Safe Sleep:

Staff demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidance. Sleep logs were maintained in the dedicated sleep room, and individual children's observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. Standard cots and low-level beds were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages and developmental needs. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

### Fire Safety:

Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The door in the Preschool room which was used for drop off and collection was open and accessible during the inspection posing a risk of a child exiting the service unsupervised or an unauthorised person accessing the service. The door led directly out into the main road outside. The inspector brought this to the attention of the person in charge during the inspection and secured the door.
2. The side door into the kitchen was open and accessible to children from the Preschool room who were accessing the bathroom alone during the inspection. The kitchen contained a number of electrical appliances and cooking utensils which could pose a risk of harm to a child.
3. An electrical cable was hanging down in reach of children in the Baby room during the inspection posing a risk of injury to a child.
4. During discussions with staff members, it was stated that a microwave was in use to heat babies milk bottles posing a risk of scalding to a child should uneven heating create hotspots in the milk.
5. 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 for one staff member working in the service.

#### Infection Control:

6. The handwashing practices observed in some care rooms were at variance with the handwashing and nappy changing policies in place in the service and posed a risk of cross contamination as follows:
  - Babies' hands were not consistently washed after nappy changing.

- Babies' hands were not consistently washed prior to mealtimes.
- 7. The pedal operated bin in use for disposing of soiled nappies was broken resulting in staff members handling the bin lid to dispose of soiled nappies and paper towels following handwashing. This posed a risk of cross contamination.
- 8. The bins in use for disposal of waste, including soiled nasal tissues, were unlidded and accessible to the children in the Baby and Toddler rooms posing a risk of cross contamination.
- 9. Perishable food items in children's lunch boxes were stored at room temperature in the Montessori and preschool rooms prior to consumption posing a risk of gastrointestinal illness.
- 10. One of the cots in the designated sleep room which staff indicated is shared between two children did not have a waterproof covering to prevent cross contamination.
- 11. The couch in the Preschool rest area was heavily torn with internal foam exposed and could not be effectively cleaned.
- 12. The fabric on an adult chair in use in the Baby room was heavily stained and soiled and required a deep clean.

### **Administration of Medication:**

- 13. Some of the procedures in place for the administration of prescribed medication to children in the service were at variance with the policy in place and posed a risk of incorrect dosage to a child as follows:
  - Staff members reported that parents were not filling in required documentation to provide pre-consent for the administration of prescribed medication to a child. Staff stated that they were filling in the pre-consent form information on the medication to be administered and parents were signing this at a later stage.

### **Fire Safety:**

- 14. The entrance door to the service which staff members indicated was the main fire exit point was partially blocked on the day of inspection. The school bags for 29 school aged children and their coats were all stored in the hallway which was partially blocking the exit route which may effect the timely evacuation of children and staff in the event of a fire.

### **Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

#### **Corrective & Preventive Action**

##### **General Safety:**

- 1. A sign has been put next to the lock to remind staff to lock the door. All staff were spoken to about the importance of making sure all doors are locked.

2. The lock which is on the door has been locked. The lock at the top of the door will remain locked.
3. A cable clip has been placed around the wire, so it does not hang down. The provider has looked through other rooms to double check for any hanging cables. Nothing was found but will be reviewed when necessary.
4. A bottle warmer has been purchased for the room. Staff were informed about the non-compliance and the reason for it.
5. Re-vetting for the staff member has been applied for. Has not yet been received. The provider has made a note of when the staff's re-vetting needs to be applied for again, so this does not happen in the future.

### Infection Control:

6. The provider has spoken with the staff from the room to remind them of the importance of hand washing. At the next staff meeting on October 7th, the importance of handwashing will be discussed as well as a training session on how to wash hands.
7. & 8.  
Pedal bins were purchased for the two changing rooms. Broken pedal bins will be replaced in future.
9. Parents/Guardians were informed to bring perishable food items in a labelled bag or small container so it can be stored in the fridge. Children attending the ECCE class next year and onwards will be informed to bring perishable foods in a bag/small container which can be stored in the fridge.
10. New waterproof mattresses were purchased which can be wiped down between uses. Spoke to staff members to ensure mattresses are wiped down or turned over between use.
11. A new couch has been purchased. Remove or fix any torn furniture in the future.
12. While waiting to get the chair upholstered, two removable covers have been purchased which can be rotated and washed. Ensure furniture is cleaned as necessary.

### Administration of Medication:

13. The provider has spoken individually to staff members to inform them that parents must fill out the pre-consent form. Ensure all future staff are made aware that parents fill out the pre-consent form.

### Fire Safety:

14. All children put their coats and bags on hooks. One staff member stands with the children in the hallway and makes sure bags and coats are on hooks and not thrown on the ground.

### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. The actions outlined will be assessed on the next inspection of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Non-Compliance Information

The supervision of the children attending the Toddler and Preschool rooms was inadequate on the day of inspection at times and posed a risk to the safety and wellbeing of the children in attendance as follows;

- 18 children aged 2 and 3 years had one staff member caring for them while another staff member left the service to collect school aged children. During this time, one of the children had a toileting accident. 17 of the children were alone in the care room from 12:05 to 12:11 while the staff member tended to the child in the bathroom.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

Supervision, and the importance of supervision, was discussed with staff members throughout the service.

Ensure children are supervised at all times.

The provider has spoken to the staff in the room again regarding the importance of supervision. The provider has ensured that a staff member is available to go into the room to cover for any necessary reason.

All staff have been spoken to regarding the importance of supervision both in the rooms and outside in the garden

##### Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation was submitted.

#### Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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*

*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

### Non-Compliance Information

(c)

1. The registered provider did not ensure that the Toddler nappy changing room was adequately ventilated. Throughout the day of inspection, a strong malodour was present in the care room and the nappy changing room indicating that the ventilation available was inadequate.

(d)

Throughout the premises, areas of the building were found not to be cleaned, maintained and repaired as required as detailed below:

2. Throughout the service, parts of the walls, doors, and ledges in all care rooms were soiled and heavily chipped with paint missing in parts.
3. The wooden ledge beneath the handwash sink in the Montessori room was heavily worn with the lacquered surface missing in parts exposing a porous surface which was damp and could not be effectively cleaned.
4. Part of the skirting board in the Toddler room was missing exposing chipped plaster and debris.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. A new pedal bin has been purchased. Staff were asked to remove waste as needed when smell occurs. The window will remain open and staff will be asked to remove the waste bin as needed.
2. I have received a quote from a painter who will undertake the works. It can't be started immediately due to their schedule. Keep on top of paint work as needed and within reason. The Baby Room is being painted in November and the Toddler Room is being painted in December. The rest of the paint work will happen in the new year.
3. & 4.  
Someone coming to look at the work and materials needed to complete the jobs. Fix items as and when is needed. The skirting board in toddler room and panel under sink are getting fixed over the Halloween break.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

### Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated and once implemented will address the non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

*(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) (2)

The minimum amount of clear floor space required for the number and age of the children attending the Preschool room and the Toddler room was not available on the day of inspection as follows:

- In the Toddler room, 8 children aged 2 years were present on the day of inspection on a full day care basis requiring a minimum of 18.8 square metres clear floor space when only 16.6 square metres is available. A review of attendance records evidenced that 8 children are registered to attend the service daily.
- In the Preschool room, 6 preschool children aged 3 to 4 years and 29 school aged 5 years and over were in attendance on the afternoon of inspection. There was 43.97 square metres available in the care room.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

I have always had 8 children in this room as when the business was sold to me it was advertised as being 18.48m<sup>2</sup> with a capacity for 8 children. I will have the same number next year as the children currently in the baby room will move to this room between July and September 2025. I also would have had the same issue in 2026 but I have contacted one family to inform them that their child will be unable to move forward into the toddler room in

2027. Now that I am aware the room can only hold 6 children, I will ensure that this number is adhered to in the future.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

**Summary Comment**

The non-compliance remains outstanding. The regulatory requirement has not been met.