

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR073			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Roola Boola Creche & Montessori			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Leopardstown Valley, Ballyogan Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 H6W0			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Antoinette Martin			
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	06/08/2025			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	9	PM	5
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate The Brunel Building Heuston South Quarter St. John's Road West Dublin 8			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	A Spain			
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector			
<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

Roola Boola is a full day care service located in a retail complex in Sandyford, Dublin 18. The service is registered to care for children in the age range 0 to 6 years and currently is caring for children in the age range 1 to 6 years. The service is operational between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm. Rooms in use in the service include two playrooms, a sleep room, a store room and office area, sanitary accommodation for children and staff, a nappy changing area and a kitchen. Direct access to the service is provided from the front of the building. An outdoor play area is provided at the back of the premises. A school age service is provided between the hours of 1.00 and 6.00pm during school term.

### Staffing

The service is staffed by six staff members. The registered provider does not work directly with the children in the service.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

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 and recruitment,  
Regulation 11 – Staffing levels,  
Regulation 15 – Records of pre-school child,  
Regulation 16 – Records in relation to pre-school service,  
Regulation 19 – Health, welfare and development of child,  
Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play,  
Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child,  
Regulation 25 – First aid,  
Regulation 26 – Fire safety measures,  
Regulation 27- Supervision,  
Regulation 28 – Insurance.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Records of pre-school child. The scope of the inspection included all rooms in the service and the outdoor play area.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (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.*

## Compliance Information

(1)(a)

The service had both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

The named person to deputise was present on the arrival of the inspector and was present for the duration of the inspection.

(c)

Staff were observed to be familiar with their roles and responsibilities as they engaged in play activities with the children and looked after their care needs in the designated rooms assigned to work in.

The inspector reviewed the staff files for the six staff members employed to work in the service.

(2)(a)(b)

Two written and validated references from past employers were held on file in respect of two staff members. Two written and validated references from a reputable source were held on file in respect of one staff member. A written and validated reference from a past employer and a written and validated reference from a reputable source were held on file in respect of the remaining three staff members.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were held on file in respect of the staff working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)

Police vetting was held on file in respect of two staff members who had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as adults.

(3)

Records held on file confirmed that the necessary vetting procedures were conducted prior to the appointment of staff to work in the service.

(4)

Documented evidence was held on file to confirm that all staff working directly with the children held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education varying from level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
Both the baby room and the toddler/ montessori rooms were open and in use on the day of inspection. An adequate number of adults worked and cared for the children present in both rooms. The inspector reviewed the childrens attendance records and the staff roster for the week of the 14 July 2025 in the baby room. Records confirmed that the maximum number of children in daily attendance was 5 children aged 1 to 2 years with 1 staff member present.

(2)  
One staff member cared for 4 children aged 1 to 2 years in the baby room in the service for the duration of the inspection. One staff member cared for 5 children aged 2 to 4 years in the toddler/montessori room up until 1.00pm while the children were in attendance in the service. A staff member was available to provide relief cover for nappy changing, breaks and when children were placed in the cot room for sleep.

## 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.*

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

- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child but only in respect of the record relating to that child,*
- (b) an employee who is authorised in that behalf by the registered provider, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) to (i)

The inspector reviewed a sample 4 children’s record forms. The necessary details in respect of (1)(a) to (i) were recorded in respect of the sample of records reviewed.

(3)(a)(b)(c)

The records referred to in paragraph (1) were open to inspection by a parent or guardian of a pre-school child in respect of the record in relation to their child, an employee who was authorised by the registered provider and the inspector on the day of inspection.

### 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:*

*(k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(k)

The inspector reviewed the accident and incident policy and a sample of the records of accidents and incidents held in the service. The records reviewed for February 2025, August 2023, and August 2024 confirmed that the policy was followed in relation to the recording of accidents and incidents and included staff signatures and parental signatures to confirm notification of accidents or incidents involving their preschool child. A staff member was aware of the procedure for notifying parents of accidents and incidents when queried by the inspector.

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

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Childrens toileting and nappy changing needs were observed to be promptly and sensitively attended to by the staff in both rooms in the service. Childrens hands were washed under supervision for dinner in the service. Children in the toddler/ montessori room sat for dinner, having been provided with bibs to wear and beakers for



water to take drinks. The children enjoyed rice, carrot and turnip in a mild curry sauce in a relaxed atmosphere. The staff member was observed to sit with the children and both speak and listen to the children in a calm manner. Tea served on the day of inspection comprised of cucumber, carrot and sweetcorn with cheese and eggs on toast which was provided in the afternoon in the service.

Children in both rooms were afforded opportunities to relax during the course of their day in service. The rest areas in both rooms comprised of soft floor mats, soft cushions and seating for children to take a break from activities and pick up books of their choice from low level shelves and containers in the rooms.

All children were taken out to play before dinner time in the service. Children enjoyed playing in a playhouse and with shovels and buckets in the sand tray. Children from the toddler/ montessori room were also observed to enjoy playing on the slide and building with timber blocks while sitting outside. Children from the baby room sat on an all weather soft surface to build with soft blocks and a staff member was observed to sit and comfort a child who was tired and upset and to play throw and catch with a soft ball whilst sitting on the all weather ground surface.

Parents and guardians had access to an electronic communications application to view their children’s daily activities in the service. Children's personal folders and scrapbooks also contained photographic and descriptive images of the activities the children engaged in as well as observations on children’s preferences, likes and needs for take home at year end.

### 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 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.
- (3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-
- (a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises.

### Compliance Information

#### (1)(a)

Toys and play equipment in both playrooms were located on low level open shelving and at floor level in the case of the baby room for children to access toys of their choice to play with. Additional toys were stored on shelving in the storeroom for use depending on children’s interests, emerging topics and the seasons. Low level tables and chairs were provided in both rooms for children to sit for play activities.

The baby room was provided with a cooker, food and utensils in the kitchen area. Colourful connection toys, insets and musical instruments were available to the children. Building blocks of different sizes and dimensions were provided and soft toys in the rest area. Miniature toys on wheels and animals were provided in the small world area. Paper and crayons were provided for arts and crafts activities. “See me” mirrors were located on the walls in the playroom. The “birthday walls “ in both rooms displayed pictures of the children and their dates of birth on colourful balloons.

The toddler/montessori room had a stock of puzzles, jigsaws and games for tabletop activities. A playhouse was provided in a pretend play area. Arts and crafts materials provided included crayons, coloured paper and paint and shapes cut by the children were on open display on the wall in the playroom. The “family tree” displayed family members and activities the children enjoyed in their home settings. “Our time table” on the wall was a familiar reminder for the children of routines in the playroom in terms of play, rest and meal times.

#### (b)

In addition to rest areas provided in quiet areas of the playrooms, five standard cots and a low level bed were provided in the cot room in the service for children to sleep on demand. Individual labelled containers were used to store linen used when children were placed in cots for sleep. Additional low level beds were available if children required rest in the playrooms in the service.

#### (3)(a)

The outdoor play area was safely and securely fenced in by the back wall of the premises and high level concrete walls to prevent unauthorised access to the children playing outdoors. A slide was located on the all weather surface and timber blocks for children to sit and play building and construction play. Ride-on toys included trikes and cars. Wheelbarrows and prams were provided for children to push along. A playhouse was provided outdoors and a sandbox for messy play. Low level chairs were available outdoors for children to sit and take a break from activities.

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

#### Regulation 22 – Food and drink

*A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

The service prepared the breakfast, snack and evening meal in the service. Dinners in the service were provided by an outside catering company. Food storage including refrigeration, wash up and both cooking and reheating facilities, were provided in the kitchen. A weekly menu plan was on display. The morning snack, dinner and evening meal prepared in the service were observed to be in keeping with the documented menu for the day of inspection.

### 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 entrance door to the service was secured on arrival of the inspector and a doorbell was provided to secure access. A keypad was provided for staff to access the service. A high level door release switch was provided inside the front door to guard against unsupervised exit of children from the service. Viewing panels on the walls between both playrooms assisted with easy visibility of the children from both rooms. The gates at the entrance doors to both playrooms also assisted with unsupervised access by children while in the playrooms. Radiators to heat the playrooms and the sleep room were wall mounted above child height to avoid a touch hazard by children cared for in the rooms. Cleaning agents and chemicals were stored out of children's reach in a press in the kitchen, on a high level shelf in the store room and in a press in the staff sanitary accommodation. A high level latch was provided on the entrance door to the kitchen to deny children access to the room. Waste and refuse storage bins were stored at the gable end of the premises and a latched gate was provided to prevent children from accessing this area when playing outdoors. A high level secured cast iron gate was provided at the front of the open gable of the premises to prevent unauthorised access from the front of the service to both the premises

and outdoor play area. Access to the fire escape for the adjoining commercial premises leading to the outdoor play area was secured with a cast iron gate to prevent access by children when playing outdoors.

### **Infection Control:**

Liquid soap, thermostatically controlled hot water disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins were provided in the children's and staff sanitary accommodation. Linen and blankets was laundered on site before storage in the children's individually labelled storage boxes. Completed daily cleaning schedules were available for the playrooms, sanitary accommodation, furniture and toys in daily use.

### **Administration of Medication:**

Medication administration forms were provided and completed in the service to record childrens details, medication administered, route of administration, amount, time of administration and any outcome of administration. A record of medication administered to a child confirmed that the form was signed by a staff member, management and a parent on collection of the child. Temperature reducing medication was held in storage in the kitchen in the service and parental authorisation for administration in the event of an emergency was included on children's enrolment forms to the service.

### **Safe Sleep:**

Daily sleep checklists were maintained in the baby room in the service. The checklists included detail of breathing, colour, position, sleep times, room temperature and record of 10 minute sleep checks. The record was observed to be completed for the five children that slept in the sleep room on the day of inspection. The sleep room temperature was recorded by the inspector as between 18°C and 19°C on the day of inspection.

### **Fire Safety:**

The entrance door and fire exit at the back of the service were unobstructed and fire exit signage was provided over the doors. A fire assembly point was located in a laneway at the back of the service.

## 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)  
Two staff members trained in FAR (first aid response) with an expiry date of the 21 March 2026 were available in the service.
- (2)  
(a) A first aid box was located on a high level shelf in the baby room.  
(b) The first aid box was easily accessible to staff and available to children cared for in both rooms in the service.

## 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 record was maintained of monthly fire drills as conducted in the premises. The last monthly fire drill was recorded on the 23 July 2025.
- (b)  
The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment located in both the kitchen and storage area in the service confirmed that an annual service was conducted in September 2024. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system confirmed that a service was conducted on 31 July 2025.
- (4)  
A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at the entrance door and at the door leading to the back garden.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 27 – Supervision

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

#### Compliance Information

Children were observed to be supervised by both sight and sound in their designated rooms cared for and while in the outdoor play area. Staff were observed to sit with the children during mealtimes and to go into the sleep room to observe the children.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service has insurance cover for a maximum of 22 children in daily attendance in a full day care service. Insurance cover is valid from the 28 March 2025 to the 27 March 2026.