

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR096
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Springfield Montessori School
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Springfield Lane, Carrickmines, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 TY04
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Clodagh O'Leary
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	19/03/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	14	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Bray, Co Wicklow
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mary Redmond
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

This private childcare service was established in 2002 by the current registered provider. Sessional care and education is provided for children aged two to five and a half years of age. The service operates Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12.45pm for 38 weeks of the year and is registered to accommodate a maximum number of twenty children.

The service operates from a room on the premises of an equestrian centre in south county Dublin. The children have access to an enclosed garden area and another sheltered outdoor space which is located outside the preschool room.

### Staffing

There are two adults employed in the service including the registered provider. Both adults had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at Levels 6 and 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Another adult was available for relief duties if required.

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

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

- Regulation 9 Management and recruitment
- Regulation 11 Staffing levels
- Regulation 15 Record of pre-school child
- Regulation 16 Record in relation to pre-school service
- Regulation 19 Health welfare and development of child
- Regulation 25 First aid
- Regulation 26 Fire safety measures

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 reoccurring. 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 co-operation of the registered provider who facilitated the inspection and the staff member 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.*

*(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

- (2)
- (a) There were written validated references available from previous employers for adults employed in the service.
  - (b) References from other sources were not required.
  - (c) Garda vetting dated within the last three years was available for both adults.
  - (d) Police vetting was not required.
- (4) Adults had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with children attending the service. There were two adults working directly with fourteen children during this inspection.

### 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.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The records of ten children who were attending the service were reviewed and contained the following particulars:

- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
  - (b) The date on which each 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) Names and contact details of other adults who were authorised to collect children were available.
  - (f) The documentation available supported the recording of specific illnesses, allergies, disabilities and dietary preferences for children.
  - (g) The name, address and telephone number of each child's general practitioner (GP) was recorded.
  - (h) Parents had indicated which immunisations their children had received.
  - (i) There was written parental consent for medical treatment of children in the event of an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider was aware that the records referred to above must be retained for a period of two years after the child leaves the service.

### 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) Children's attendance was recorded in an attendance register.
  - (i) A staff roster was not required as the same two adults work in the service every day.

- (j) Documentation was available to demonstrate that signed parental consent was required prior to administering medication to a child when required and that administration of medication would be witnessed.
- (k) Details of accidents and incidents were recorded and there was evidence available that parents were informed following an accident or incident involving their child.

## 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)

The pre-school room was suitably resourced and laid out to cater for the age range and number of children attending the service. Developmentally appropriate toys and materials, including Montessori equipment were accessible to the children from open low-level shelving in the room. Adults interacted appropriately with children encouraging them with activities including storytelling, "circle time" and imaginative play.

### 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) There was evidence that one adult employed in the service had completed First Aid Responder (FAR) training and was available to children attending the service.

(2)

(a) There was a suitably equipped first aid box available.

(b) The first aid box was available to children attending the service 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

(a) There was a record available of fire drills which had taken place; the last recorded fire drill was in January 2024.

(b) There was a record to show that the firefighting equipment had been serviced within the last year.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

(b) There was no maintenance record available for the smoke detection and alarm system.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

A (named) company has been booked to service the smoke detection and alarm system.

### Supporting documentation submitted

None

## Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met. This will be reviewed on next inspection.