

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR114
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Angels Care Nursery and Montessori School
-------------------------	---

<b>Address of Service:</b>	97 Beaumont Avenue, Churchtown, Dublin 14
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	D14 EH10
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Carmel Tracey
-------------------------------------	---------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Sessional
----------------------	---------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	10/11/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM	23
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Floor 7 Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	H Sutherland, O Quill
<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>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

Angels Care Nursery & Montessori School is a privately owned full day care service located in an urban residential area of Churchtown, South County Dublin. The service opens from Monday to Friday from 7:45am to 6pm and provides care and education to children aged 0 to 6 years. Sessional hours are offered daily from 9:15am to 12:15pm and school age care is provided in the afternoon. The service operates from a purposely adapted, two storey residential property and comprises of six care rooms. On the day of inspection, four care rooms were in use for preschool children. The children have access to two outdoor play areas on the grounds of the service, one of which is located in an external sheltered courtyard.

### Staffing

There are currently 20 adults employed in the service, including the registered provider and a cook. On the day of inspection there were 17 adults present including the registered provider, the person in charge, the cook, 13 early years educators and a student on a work placement programme.

### 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, safety and records. 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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise when required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service.
- (c) There was a clear management structure which identified the lines of authority within the service.

(2) Following review of information provided to the inspectors and conversation with the person in charge, it was determined that six adults commenced employment in the service since the last inspection. The requirements of Regulation 9 (2)(3)(4) were reviewed in respect of the six adults. In addition, Garda vetting for 13 adults whose disclosures were identified as due for renewal was requested for review.

- (a) Five written and verified references were available from past employers.
- (b) Seven written and verified references were available from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults. 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 available in respect of five adults who had lived outside of the State for a period longer than six months as an adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed provided evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to the six adults commencing employment in the service.

(4) Documentation was available to demonstrate that five of the adults held qualifications deemed appropriate by the Department of Children, Disability and Equality (DCDE). One adult did not require a qualification.

### 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) During the inspection, it was observed that there was an adequate number of adults working directly with the children to meet their care needs.
- (2) The required adult to child ratios were maintained in accordance with the age range of the children. There were 13 early years educators available to 28 children.
- (8) (a) A review of the staff roster demonstrated that a minimum of two staff members were on the premises at all times during the operation of the service.

### 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

Mealtimes were observed to be a calm, social experience for children, and the pace was unhurried. During the morning of the inspection, children were served a snack which consisted of rice cakes, fruit and water and beef stew with potatoes for their lunch in the afternoon. Older children were encouraged to take an active role in mealtimes handing out plates and cutlery to their peers, and self-service was encouraged. Drinking water was

stored on low level shelving and offered to children with their meals. Bibs were placed on young children during mealtimes to protect their clothing, and aprons were used during messy play activities. Children’s nappies were changed on a schedule and as required. Staff were observed to use this time for warm one to one interactions supporting the children to feel safe and secure. Older children were encouraged to use the toilet independently and staff responded promptly when children asked for help. Younger children were placed to sleep at a designated time after lunch, and staff reported that there was flexibility to allow children to sleep outside of this time. Areas with large cushions and child size armchairs were available for older children to rest if needed. All children had the opportunity to spend time outdoors during the inspection and were appropriately dressed for the weather.

The inspectors observed staff speaking with children in warm, playful tones, promoting their sense of belonging and connectedness within the service. Staff were observed positioning themselves at children’s level, using eye contact and the children’s names. They provided time for children to communicate through verbal and non-verbal cues. They used mealtimes, play, toileting and nappy changing to engage in conversation with children supporting the development of their communication and social skills. Play was child led and children were observed to move freely around the care rooms playing independently and in groups and any minor disagreements were handled sensitively. Transitions from one activity to the next were smooth and unhurried and children were given prior notice that a change was approaching. Connections with parents and families was supported through use of an app and informal conversation during handovers.

The indoor environment was laid out with some interest areas and materials were available that supported choice and sustained engagement. Materials and equipment were stored on low level shelving, allowing children to find and return items of interest with ease. Interest areas included library areas, role play areas, small world items, construction and transport materials, open ended materials, mark making areas, puzzles and sorting materials. Child size tables and chairs were available, allowing children to comfortably sit during meals and when engaging in tabletop activities. The environments were print rich and displays included family walls, visual routines, labelled areas, children’s artwork and displays of current topics of learning supporting children’s understanding and engagement. The outdoor area had a variety of equipment available to children such as slides, playhouses, small world materials, bikes, large connecting shapes and a seating area allowing children to take a break from activities if needed.

## 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 into the service was adequately secured to prevent unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- A care plan was available for a child with a serious allergy and staff clearly described the procedure to follow in the event of an emergency.
- Toys and play equipment used by the children were observed to be safe for the age group, maintained and in good condition.
- Cleaning agents and medication were stored out of reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- Care rooms were visibly clean and well maintained. Cleaning schedules were displayed in each room outlining cleaning tasks.
- A procedure was in place for the sterilisation of soothers.
- Liquid soap, warm water and single use paper towels were available in the bathrooms.
- Children were supported to wash their hands after nappy changing, using the toilet and before mealtimes.
- Children's bedding was stored individually and staff advised that it was laundered weekly.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Staff demonstrated clear understanding of the procedure to follow for administering medication.
- Administration of medication records were available for review.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Staff were observed to carry out physical checks on sleeping children every ten minutes.
- A sleep log was maintained detailing the temperature, breathing pattern, colour and position of the child.
- Standard cots and low-level sleep mats were available for sleep and were used in accordance with children's ages.
- The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained within the required temperature range for safe sleep.

## Fire Safety:

- Emergency exits were observed to be unobstructed for the duration of the inspection.
- Fire evacuation procedures were displayed in prominent positions in the care rooms.

## Outing:

- The service had an outings policy and risk assessments were available for the most recent outings.
- Records were available to show parents had provided consent for their child to be taken on an outing.

## Non-Compliance Information

### Infection Control:

1. During observation of nappy changing, the inspector observed that one staff member did not sanitise the changing mat after changing two children's nappies. This practice poses a risk of the spread of infection and is at variance with the services nappy changing procedure which was on display in the changing area.
2. A staff member was observed to lift the lid of the pedal bin with their hand to dispose of waste, contrary to hygiene and infection control protocols requiring use of the foot pedal.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

All staff members in the Wobbler room have completed infection control training with an external training company and will renew the training on an annual basis.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

Evidence submitted and reviewed.

## Summary Comment

The inspector has reviewed the actions and evidence submitted. The non-compliance identified under Regulation 23 has been adequately addressed and the regulatory requirement has been met.

### 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 to show that five adults hold certification in First Aid Responder (FAR) training and were available to the children during the inspection.

(2)

(a) Suitably equipped first aid boxes were available and stored safely in easily accessible and prominent positions in the care rooms.

(b) The first aid boxes were observed to be available to the adults caring for the children attending 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 written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill took place on 8 October 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises were up to date. Fire extinguishers were serviced in September 2025 and smoke alarms were serviced on 6 November 2025.

(4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were displayed in the care rooms and the hallway 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.*

#### Compliance Information

The inspectors observed that appropriate supervision of children was maintained for the duration of the inspection. Children were supervised during mealtimes, sleep, nappy changing, while using the toilet, during activities and outdoor play.