

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR134
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Name of Service:	Our World Montessori Ltd.
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Address of Service:	St. Phillip & St. James Parish Centre, Cross Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	A94 Y991
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Name of Registered Provider:	Karenina Dunne
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date of Inspection:	29/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	15	PM	Not Applicable
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate - Tusla Child and Family Agency Brunel Building, Floor 7 Heuston South Quarter Dublin 8, D08 X01F
Inspection undertaken by:	M Bermingham
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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Description of service

Our World Montessori is registered to provide part time care for up to 24 children aged 3-6 years. Opening hours are 08:15-12:45. The service operates from two purposely adapted rooms within the St Phillip and St James Parish Centre. The rooms are named Rainbow room and the Graduation class. An outdoor grass play area to the front of the parish centre building is available for use by the pre-school.

Staffing

The service employs three staff, including the person in charge, who were all present and working directly with children on the day of inspection. The registered provider was also present on the day of inspection and works 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.

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 -

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compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

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

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

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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.*

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(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 named person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
- (b) The registered provider and/or the named person in charge were rostered to be present on the premises for the duration of the opening hours.
- (c) A clear management structure was in place as evidenced by observing the operation of the service and through discussion with staff.

(2)

Three people were employed in the service, one of whom commenced since the last inspection on 23 May 2023. This was determined through a review of previous inspection information, the current roster, and discussion with staff. Vetting documentation was reviewed and the following was found to have been considered:

- (b) Two written and verified references from sources other than past employers
- (c) One Garda vetting disclosure for the newly commenced adult and Garda vetting renewals in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate's regulatory notice requiring three-year Garda vetting renewal for all adults employed
- (d) International police vetting for one adult who lived outside of the state for a period of more than six months as an adult

(3)

The procedures specified in 9(2) above in respect of the newly commenced adult were carried out prior to the adult commencing in the service.

(4)

One staff member working directly with children held the required qualification or recognised equivalent, as evidenced through a review of records.

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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)
An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2)
The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were three adults working with 15 children.

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

The following observations demonstrated how the children's learning, development and well-being was facilitated within the daily life of the service:

Children ate snack provided by the parents in line with the Healthy eating policy of the service. Drinking water was available in children's individual beakers throughout the inspection. Staff sat with children during snack chatting in

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partnership about children's families and interests which provides an important connection between homelife and pre-school.

Children's independence was promoted as children independently chose activities and freely accessed and replaced materials. Children cleaned tables and chairs, prepared for and tidied away their snack, and put on their own coats for going outside. The daily routine was displayed and transitions through the routine were orderly and seamless. Adults provided support where required, helping children resolve problems by being at children's level, patiently listening, and talking the problem through to a resolution. Children appeared to enjoy their activities, work, and play and were happily chatting and laughing with each other and with adults throughout the inspection.

The environment and materials supported children's learning and development. Designated interest areas were provided to include Montessori work, reading, and imaginary and construction play. A rest area was provided to include chairs, a mat, and cushions. The displays in the room were print and image rich and included children's birthdays. Children's pictures and labels were on their coat hooks.

Staff described current interests to include the history of the world in the Graduation class and fire safety in the Rainbow room, both of which were evident through artwork, activities, materials and language throughout the inspection. Children were engaged in writing, pretend games, singing songs, and Montessori work to include rice, water, wooden cylinders, and setting a table for tea. Children also engaged with playdough where adults sat with children incorporating playful mathematical language. Photographs of children engaging in activities and their artwork were documented in individual books. Children in both rooms played outdoors where adults engaged with the children and incorporated natural materials to include available vegetation, sticks, leaves, and sand. Children were also observed climbing on a frame and playing a soccer game with goal nets.

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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 following measures were taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of children and provide a safe environment, as evidenced by observation of practice, a review of the environment and documentation, and through discussion with staff:

General Safety:

- The entrance into the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised.
- There were restrictors on windows to prevent a child exiting or falling.
- Blind cords were secured.
- Toys and play equipment were in good condition.

Infection Control:

- Effective handwashing was facilitated through the use of warm running water, liquid soap, and paper towels and children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including coming in from outside and before eating.
- The environment, equipment, and materials appeared clean and were maintained in a hygienic condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately through the use of foot pedal bins.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency escape routes and exits were unobstructed and clearly signposted.
- Staff outlined the procedure to evacuate children in the event of a fire and knew the location of the assembly point.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Two children were eating whole grapes from their lunch boxes which poses a choking risk. It is acknowledged that the registered provider chopped the grapes on request of the inspector.
2. There were three bottles of cleaning agent stored in a low unsecured press in the kitchen. The kitchen door was open, and the kitchen was unattended while children independently accessed the toilet. This poses a risk of poisoning if ingested.

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Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

The registered provider stated that:

1. Parents were asked to cut grapes at home and that the service will continue to monitor lunches for whole grapes and other choking hazards. The parent handbook and the settling in letter was updated with to include choking hazards.
2. New child safety locks were placed on cupboard doors in the kitchen. A check was added to the daily risk assessment to check that the locks are in place and working before children attend. Staff were informed to check these locks, and this is included in the new staff induction.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting evidence was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider adequately address the non-compliances identified under Regulation 23.

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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)

The registered provider ensured that a person trained as a first aid responder was available to children at all times as evidenced by a review of the roster. A current certificate of First Aid Responder (FAR) training was available for two adults.

(2)

First aid boxes that were suitably equipped were available.

(a) The first aid boxes were stored safely in conspicuous positions in the hallway and in the kitchen.

(b) The first aid boxes were available to children at all times.

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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) Fire drills were completed monthly, as evidenced through a review of written records and through discussions with staff and management. The last fire drill was recorded to have taken place on 15 April 2026.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) There were no records available to show that the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm system were serviced within the previous 12 months.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider stated that the latest maintenance certificates of smoke alarms and fire extinguishers were obtained. The maintenance checks were completed within the previous twelve months, but the certificates were not available for inspection on the day. A check for valid certificates will be carried out monthly to ensure that certificates are on site when needed.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions submitted by the registered provider address the non-compliance identified on inspection under Regulation 26.