

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015DR153			
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Eaton Montessori			
<b>Address of Service:</b>	1A Eaton Brae, Corbawn Lane, Shankill, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin			
<b>Eircode:</b>	D18 PY79			
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sinead Doocey			
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional			
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	08/01/2026			
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	18	PM	18
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown, County Dublin.			
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Olivia Quill			
<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

Little Eaton Montessori is registered to provide part-time and sessional education and care to pre-school children ranging in age from 2.5 years to 5.5 years. The early years service is privately operated and is located in a room in the registered provider's private residence in a residential area of Shankill County Dublin. The service operates Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 13:30.

### Staffing

The registered provider and three staff are employed to work in the service. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and three staff were working directly with the children.

### 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 Record of a pre-school child.

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 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*

*(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

(1)

- (a) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person who could deputise.
- (b) At all times during the inspection the designated person in charge and deputy were present.

(2) One new staff member was employed since the last inspection on the 29 September 2023. This file was reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures were inspected for the 4 staff working directly with the children.

- (a) Two written validated references were available from a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for 4 staff members. Garda vetting disclosures had been renewed in accordance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, which requires services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, the staff member had never lived outside Ireland for longer than six consecutive months.
- (4) Records were available evidencing the staff member who were employed to work directly with the children held the required 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) 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 for part-time day-care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 18 children attending the service being supervised by 4 adults on the day of inspection.
- (8)(a) The registered provider ensured at least two adults are on the premises at all times as evidenced by the staff rostered hours.

### 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-*
- (c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) A sample of 10 records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:
- (a) The name and date of birth of each child.
  - (b) The date on which the 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) There was authorisation for the collection of the child.
  - (f) The records available supported the recording of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child.
  - (g) The name and telephone number of each child's medical practitioner was recorded.
  - (h) A record of immunisations received was recorded.
  - (i) There was written consent for appropriate medical treatment of a child in the event of an emergency.
- (3) (c) The records in relation to the pre-school children were available for inspection.

### 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
  - (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a), (b)

Each child's learning development and well-being was facilitated within the day life of the Montessori service. Children were divided into two groups during the morning session. One group was observed in the Montessori

classroom engaging in a range of tabletop activities including painting, playdough exploration and completing jigsaws. Staff members sat alongside children, offering guidance, encouragement and support as needed.

The second group played outdoors where children were seen riding scooters and toy cars, running and engaging in free play. A small number of children were observed listening to stories read by a staff member. All staff interacted warmly and kindly with children throughout the inspection.

Prior to lunchtime, staff provided children with clear notice of the transition. Children were appropriately supervised while washing their hands after outdoor play and before eating. Children's lunches were stored safely in the classroom refrigerator.

A calm and positive atmosphere was observed during lunch. Children sat together, were sociable and engaged in conversation with their peers and staff. Children independently accessed the toilets as required.

Staff reported daily communication with parents during both drop-off and collection times.

### 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) Staff trained in first aid for children were at all times immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service. The registered provider and another staff member caring for the children had First Aid Responder certificates that were valid until the 06 August 2026 and the 23 August 2026.

(2) (a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in the Montessori room and easily accessible and available to the children attending the pre-school 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
- (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 was available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 15 December 2025.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the fire fighting equipment and smoke alarm was available. The maintenance records for the firefighting equipment were dated the 04 December 2025 and the maintenance record for the smoke alarm was dated the 15 January 2025. On the 4 February 2026 the registered provider submitted the updated cert for the maintenance of the smoke alarm completed on the 3 February 2026.
- (4) The procedure to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in conspicuous location in the Montessori room.