

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DR156
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Name of Service:	Roola Boola Creche & Montessori
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Address of Service:	Kilgobbin Road, Sandyford, Dublin 18, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D18 EY15
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Name of Registered Provider:	Antoinette Martin
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date(s) of Inspection:	19/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	17	PM	17
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8.
Inspection undertaken by:	R Duff M Bermingham
Title:	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).

Description of service

Roola Boola Creche and Montessori is one of two services operated by the registered provider. The service is registered to provide full day care for a maximum number of 24 children aged 2-6 years, during the operational hours of 08:00-18:30. The service operates from a purposefully adapted extension to an adjoining building consisting of two children's rooms and sanitary facilities. In addition, a room in the dwelling house is used as a kitchen and office for the service. There is an outdoor play area to the front of the building comprising of two sections, which are surfaced with artificial material and natural bark, respectively.

Staffing

There are eight staff members employed in the service including the registered provider. On the day of inspection six staff members were present. The registered provider was not present during the inspection.

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-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.

Additional Information

A referral was made to Services Operating Outside of Registration (SOORS). Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 8 in this report.

Acknowledgments

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

Part II - Registration and Register

Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C(2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.

Non-Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider did not notify the inspectorate in writing of the appointment of a new person in charge in the service.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has stated that a long-standing member of staff has been formally appointed as person in charge. The registered provider has notified Tusla in writing of the appointment of the person in charge.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance.

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,*

(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) (b) The service had a designated person in charge and a person to deputise as required. Both remained on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) The inspection included a review of the required documentation for six staff members employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 18 August 2023. Garda vetting disclosures were assessed for each of the seven staff members and registered provider employed in the service. The following documentation was available;

(a)(b) Of the twelve written and validated references that were required, seven were available from a past employer and two were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for seven staff members employed to work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from all staff members were assessed to determine compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International Police vetting was available for four adults employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 18 August 2023 who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(3) Documentation reviewed evidence that the procedures specified above under 9(2)(a)(b)(c)(d) had been carried out prior to three adults commencing employment in the service since the last inspection on 18 August 2023.

(4)
Records were available evidencing that six staff members employed in the service since the last inspection dated the 18 August 2023 who were employed to work directly with the children held at least the required award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)
(a)(b) Three references for two adults had not been sought or verified prior to them commencing employment in the service.

(d) International Police vetting was not available for one adult who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) were not carried out in prior to three adult commencing employment in the service as follows:

Three references for two adults had not been sought or verified prior to them commencing employment in the service. International Police vetting was not available for one adult who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding 6 months as an adult.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(2) (a) (b) The registered provider has stated that the three references for two staff members have been verified and are now on file and available for review.

(d) International police vetting has been obtained for one staff member. A checklist has been developed to ensure all documents are in place before a person begins working in the service.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on next inspection.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection; there were 4 adults caring for 17 children throughout the 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-

(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

The following observations demonstrated appropriate and suitable care practises that were in place:

Children enjoyed both their morning snack and dinner in a relaxed and social atmosphere. Adults served the food and sat chatting with children while they ate. The food was provided by the service and consisted of a selection of fruit for morning snack, and beef casserole with vegetables and mashed potatoes for dinner. The children drank water with their meals which was also continually available to them throughout the day.

Children's transitions through the daily routine were well organised as children appeared familiar and content. For example, in the Toddler room children were chatting socially with each other and singing independently when waiting for their snack. Also, children transitioned to bed after dinner in a calm and relaxed manner. In the Montessori room adults encouraged and supported children to tidy up by pre signalling, playing dedicated tidy up music, modelling tidy up tasks, and holding boxes and baskets open for children. Children in both rooms were afforded freedom of movement within transitions as adults supported their independence and self-care.

Adults interacted with children in a kind and playful way. For example, during nappy changing an adult and child were chatting about dinner and singing songs together. Adults partnered with children by sitting alongside children during their activities. In the Toddler room during circle time the adult and children sat together chatting in turns and singing. In the Montessori room, children chose to listen to a story and remained actively engaged, reading along with the adult and chatting about the characters and happenings within the story. Children in both rooms played outside where adults actively joined games.

Adults facilitated children to engage in a variety of play and learning experiences. During group time children engaged in chat about their news, how they are feeling, and the calendar months, days of the week, and weather.

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 to the service was appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access and to prevent a child exiting unsupervised using a keycode and release button.
- The outdoor area was appropriately secured with a lock on the gate and the play area fully enclosed using a moveable picket fence.
- Storage facilities and waste were inaccessible to children.
- Materials and equipment were maintained in a good condition.

Infection Control:

- Nappy changing was carried out in line with the services procedures.
- Staff described the appropriate management of soothers being sterilised after use and stored in individual containers.
- Warm running water and liquid soap were available for handwashing.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored safely out of reach of children and appropriately labelled and in date. Staff demonstrated their knowledge of the procedures in place for the safe administration of medication and recording of same. There was written evidence of prior parental consent and clear procedures to follow including in the case of emergency medication if required.

Safe Sleep:

- Children were facilitated to sleep in the Toddler room in line with current safe sleep guidance. Five children, aged over 2 years, slept on stackable beds that were well maintained and adequately spaced. The sleep room temperature was monitored and maintained within the required range. A staff member supervised the sleeping children and demonstrated their understanding of appropriate physical sleep-checks of children's breathing, position, and colour, and recording of same.

Fire Safety:

- Emergency and fire exits were clearly signposted and remained unobstructed throughout the inspection. Staff members described the evacuation procedures in place in line with the service's written procedures and they also knew the location of the assembly point in the carpark.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

1. Hand washing practices were not in line with the service's infection control policy, increasing the risk of the spread of infection within the service. Children and staff across the service shared the same flannel towel for drying hands and staff did not wash hands before serving fruit to the children or after handling the lid of a bin.
2. The nappy changing mat in the sanitary area was ripped in two places, preventing it from being cleaned effectively, thus posing a contamination risk to children.
3. Children's items were stored in the adult sanitary accommodation posing a risk of contamination to children. The items were in use by the children and included their coats, overalls, boots and a bag.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Infection Control:

1. The registered provider has stated that the paper hand towel dispensing machine has been repaired and is in use by staff and children. Staff members have been reminded to wash their hand before serving food. Management will monitor this more closely.
2. The nappy changing mat has been replaced.
3. Children's items have now been moved to the hallway.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation has been submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliance. This regulation will be assessed on next inspection.

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 in first aid responder (FAR) was always available to children. Two staff members who were designated as first aid responders were appropriately trained as evidenced by current certificates available.
- (2) (a)(b) A first aid box, that was suitably equipped, was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the hallway and available for use.

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) Fire drills were completed monthly, as evidenced by written records and through discussion with staff and management. Records showed that the most recent fire drill took place on 19 of January 2026.
- (b) A record was available of the number, type, and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. Records showed that the firefighting equipment was serviced on 2 September 2025 and the smoke allowances system was serviced on 21 January 2026.

(4)

There were multiple notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire displayed in conspicuous locations in each room and in the hallway.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had a valid certificate of insurance in place to accommodate 23 children for full day care.