

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS042		
Name of Service:	Keane Minds Montessori School		
Address of Service:	Earlsfort Residents centre, Earlsfort Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	K78 N2E9		
Name of Registered Provider:	Catherine Keane		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	18/09/2025		
No of pre-school children:	AM	18	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Loughlinstown Health Centre, Loughlinstown drive, County Dublin		
Inspection undertaken by:	Olivia Quill		
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).			
Conditions if applicable	Not applicable		

Description of service

Keane Minds Montessori is a privately owned sessional service located in Earlsfort Residents Centre in Lucan, County Dublin. The service provides a Montessori and play based sessional educational preschool service for children aged 2 to 6 years. There is one large preschool room available to the children with a small outdoor area to the side of the premises.

Staffing

On the day of inspection two adults worked directly with children. The registered provider arrived during the inspection and remained on the premises 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 announced/unannounced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Compliance was assessed under the following regulations:

9(1)(a)(b), (2) (a)-(d) and (4) Management and Recruitment,
11(1), (2) Staffing Levels,
19(1)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,

25(1), (2) (a), (b) First Aid

26 (1)(a), (b) and (4) Fire Safety

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-

- (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*

Compliance Information

- (1) (a)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.
- (2) From speaking to the person in charge it was confirmed no new adults were employed in the service since the last inspection. This inspection focused on a review of Garda vetting for three adults employed in the service.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for three adults employed in the service. 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.

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.*
- (3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 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) therefore 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.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were eighteen children attending being supervised by three adults on the day of 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

Compliance Information

(a)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place. Staff stated lunch is provided daily by the parents/guardians of the children in attendance. Lunchtime was observed to be a sociable occasion where staff were observed sitting with children, engaged in conversation. Children had their own individual water bottle.

Children were encouraged to be independent in their care rooms including using the bathroom, tidying up after activities, preparing for meals and caring for their classroom and in assisting with daily tasks such as handing out lunches. Transitions were managed well staff gave children plenty of notice to prepare for next activity.

The programme of care and education in the service was observed to be child led and children were observed to be content and engaged in their play throughout the inspection. Staff used respectful language during interactions with the children demonstrating warmth and sensitivity. The pre-school room was well-resourced with a variety of Montessori equipment and play materials which were accessible to the children at all times on low level shelving units. Children were afforded choice in their activities and were observed choosing Montessori based tasks and play materials independently throughout the inspection. Physical activity was included in the day, after lunch children were observed to enjoy different exercises to music with staff.

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:

Entry to the service was secure to prevent unauthorised access or children leaving unsupervised. A bell system was in place to monitor visitors before granting access. The kitchen was not accessible to children. There were no trailing flexes or cables observed.

Infection Control:

The environment was clean. Pedal operated bins were provided in both the sanitary areas and the care room.

Fire Safety:

Fire exits were clearly marked and unobstructed.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. In the girls toilet air freshener spray was beside the wash hand basin and within reach of the children posing a potential safety risk.

Infection Control:

2. Prior to snack children washed their hands in a communal basin of warm soapy water and shared a cloth towel. This practice posed a potential infection control risk.

Administration of Medication:

3. The temperature reducing medication available had passed its expiry date posing a safety risk in the event it was required.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. The air freshener was removed.

Infection Control:

2. Children now wash their hands in the sanitary area and dry them with paper towel.

Administration of Medication:

3. Temperature reducing medication has been removed as it was out of date. Parents have been informed that their child must not be sent in if they have a temperature or are unwell. Our policies and procedures have been amended to reflect this.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence.

Infection Control:

Written evidence.

Administration of Medication:

Copy up dated medication policy.

Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance meeting the Regulatory requirement.

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 for children was available at all times.

Evidence provided demonstrated two staff members who were present had current First Aid Responder (FAR) training certifications. The FAR certificates were valid until 10 September 2026.

(2)(a), (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous place in the Montessori room and was available to the 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.*
- (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 monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 15 September 2025.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire equipment was dated the 10 October 2024 and the smoke alarm system was dated 02 May 2025.

(4) The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service