

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DS067
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Name of Service:	The Village Day Care & Montessori School Ltd
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Address of Service:	64 Laurel Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D22 FD37
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Name of Registered Provider:	Therese Monks
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date 1 of Inspection:	22/04/2026
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Date 2 of Inspection:	23/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	50	PM	36
Day 2	AM	49	PM	26

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Carysfort House, Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin
Inspection undertaken by:	L Magee & S Quigley
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).

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Description of service

The Village Daycare and Montessori School Ltd is privately operated by the current registered provider since 2001. It is a two-storey, purposely adapted residential property and is located in an urban, residential area of Clondalkin, Dublin. Full day, parttime and sessional care is provided across six care rooms to children aged 6 months to 6 years, from 7:30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The children have access to an outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The service is registered to provide a school age service.

Staffing

A total of 18 staff members are currently employed in the service including the registered provider and two centre managers. On the day of inspection, 13 staff members were present including the registered provider.

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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under the following regulations:

Regulation 9 (1),(2), (3)&(4) Management and recruitment

Regulation 11(1) (2) Staffing levels

Regulation 15 (h) Record of pre-school child

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

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Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety measures

However, on inspection, additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 8 Notification of change in circumstances, Regulation 16 (i) Record in relation to Pre-school Service, Regulation 29(d) Premises and Regulation 30 Minimum space requirements. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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, persons in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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Statutory Notices

Notice	Date Served	Detail
Improvement Notice IN0123	23/04/2026	Garda vetting disclosures were out of date for two adults present on the days of inspection. This posed a significant risk and concern due to a repeated history of out-of-date vetting.
Status	The registered provider took immediate corrective action which addressed the risk identified. Preventative actions were submitted by the registered provider which were accepted and addressed the statutory notice.	

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 Agency in writing of a change in the person in charge. The registered provider who is currently the person in charge confirmed to inspectors that they are rarely on the premises.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has applied for a change in circumstance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation submitted was reviewed.

Summary Comment

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

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art 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) There was a designated person in charge and a named person who was able to deputise as required.
- (b) The designated person in charge was present at all times on both days of inspection.
- (c) There is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability for each employee.

Following a discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that three adults had commenced employment in the service since Regulation 9 was last inspected on 17 September 2025. Documentation required

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under Regulation 9 (2), (3), (4) was reviewed in respect of these three adults and met regulatory requirements as follows:

- (2)
- (a) Four written validated references were provided from a past employer.
 - (b) Two written validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for these three adults who had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection and for a further fifteen adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes for two staff as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0123 served and Regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) Police vetting disclosures were available for two adults who lived outside Ireland for a period of longer than six months as adult.
- (3) Documentation reviewed evidenced that the procedures specified above under 9(2) had been carried out prior to these three adults commencing employment in the service.
- (4) Documentary evidence was available to show that two staff members who required a qualification and were employed to work directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Department of Children.

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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 in the Toddler rooms, Montessori 2 and the Náionra room on the days of inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to in the Toddler rooms, Montessori 2 and the Náionra room on the days of inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

- (1) The minimum ratio of adults to children was not adhered to in Montessori 1, on 22 April 2026 between 12:15-12:27pm. One adult was working directly with nine children aged 3-5 years, during this time. The service was providing full day care to children. This care requires an adult child ratio of 1 adult to every 8 children.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was not adhered to in Montessori 1 room on 22 April 2026 between 12:15-12:27pm.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager did speak to the staff member reiterating the importance of notifying the manager by the internal phone if the ratios were incorrect. The service had a staff meeting regarding the safety of children in their care and to remind staff of the childcare regulations relating to this and also about the importance of using the internal phone system to notify or ask for assistance or anything related to the safety of the children in their care.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation was reviewed.

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Summary Comment

The actions taken by the service addresses the non-compliance identified. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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:

(h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child.

Compliance Information

(1) A sample of 12 records were reviewed for children who were attending the service. The records reviewed contained the following information:

(h) A record of immunisations received was recorded for each of the 12 children.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;

Non-Compliance Information

(1) (i) On both days of inspection, the staff roster did not accurately reflect who was present on the day. This was a non-compliance on the last inspection dated 17 September 2025, despite assurances from the registered provider during the corrective action and preventative action process.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The manager will from now on edit the roster in real time.

Supporting documentation submitted

Minutes of staff meeting submitted.

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Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.

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 to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. Emergency exits were clear from obstruction.

Infection Control:

Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before meals. Children's nappies were changed in line with the service's nappy changing policy to reduce the risk of the spread of infection.

Safe Sleep:

Children were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes. A sleep log was available for review, detailing the room temperature, breathing pattern, colour and position of the child. During discussion with staff, they demonstrated they were familiar with safe sleep guidelines.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. See Statutory Notice section in relation to Improvement Notice IN 0123 served.
2. One child who attends on a full daycare basis and transitions from one room to another when the morning session is over was observed walking upstairs unsupervised. Access to both the staff bathroom and/or the main working kitchen were possible which both had numerous safety hazards.
3. One child who had been present in the service all morning was not recorded on the attendance records at 1:50pm on the first day of inspection. This posed a safety risk in the event of an emergency.
4. Four scooters in the garden area which were not age appropriate posed a safety risk to the younger children from the Toddler room when they were playing outdoors.

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5. A bottle of disinfectant was in reach of the children in Montessori 1 while a bottle of alcohol hand sanitiser was in reach outside Montessori 2. These posed a risk of poisoning.
6. A curtain cable was observed hanging across the window, in reach of the children in the Náionra room. This posed a safety risk to the children. This was removed by staff immediately when brought to the attention by the inspector.

Infection Control:

7. There was no system in place for cleaning beakers or toys after children put them into their mouths, despite the infection control policy stating mouthed toys will be cleaned on a daily basis with water and a sterilising fluid.
8. In the Toddler room, there were no mattress protectors on the mattresses the children were sleeping on. This posed a risk of cross contamination.
9. A large mat in the rest area in the Toddler room was torn in parts and could not be cleaned effectively for infection control purposes.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

2. The manager spoke to the staff member involved regarding the importance of child safety and that there is an internal phone where staff can contact the manager if needed or require assistance for the transition of one child from one room to another under no circumstances should a child be left unattended when changing rooms. The importance of child safety was discussed at the staff meeting all staff members were given a copy of the minutes of the meeting and have signed to say they understand the importance of child safety and will ensure in future that they will use the internal phone system when in need of assistance.
3. The manager spoke to the team leader and stressed how important it is to register each child in real time in case of an emergency. All children must be registered and accounted for. The manager held a staff meeting and went through the risk assessment and the safety procedure for children.
4. The scooters in the garden were for the afterschool children when it was pointed out that they were not age appropriate and posed a safety risk to the younger children the manager removed them from the garden and the premises. The manager held a staff meeting and went through the risk assessment and the safety procedure for children.

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5. The hand sanitiser outside Montessori room two has been removed. The manager spoke to the staff member regarding the disinfectant that was in reach of the children and the danger of poisoning substances and the importance of storing them out of the children's reach. The service discussed this issue with the staff at the staff meeting that they must be diligent with cleaning products and how they must be stored safely and away from children.
6. The curtain cable hanging across the window was discussed during the staff meeting and the importance of adhering to the risk assessment check list.

Infection Control:

7. The beakers and toys which children put in their mouths are cleaned at the end of the day in a microwavable container. The service will continue to do this but will also sterilise the beakers and toys during the day to avoid cross contamination and infection. The service has introduced teething toys and sanitising containers with child proof lids.
8. The service has introduced mattress protectors which will be used going forward.
9. The mat has been replaced and the risk assessment and daily checklist now includes the rest area.

Supporting documentation submitted

All documentation to support these non-compliances was reviewed.

Summary Comment

The non-compliances have been addressed. This regulation will be assessed on the next inspection.

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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 in first aid for children was available at all times to the children.

Evidence provided demonstrated two staff members who were present had in date First Aid Responder training certifications.

(2)(a)&(b) A suitably equipped first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous place on the premises and was available to the children attending the service 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.
- (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 10 March 2026.
- (b) The number, type and maintenance record of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms on the premises were available. The last maintenance records for the fire equipment and the smoke alarm system records were dated 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.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

- A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required.

Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
1. A visible build-up of dust and debris in crevices, toyboxes, on surfaces, flooring and shelving units throughout the premises was observed on the days of inspection. This is at variance with cleaning schedules which were completed for the days of inspection and previous days in Montessori 1 and the Toddler room.
 2. A damp mark with evidence of mould spores was visible on the ceiling in the Náionra room.
 3. Three toilet seats were missing and /or damaged in the two children's sanitary areas.
 4. A sink had become loose from the wall, upstairs in the children's sanitary area.

5. Parts of the wood in the playhouse in the garden area appeared to be rotten.
6. Lino was worn with concrete exposed in the Montessori 1 room and the Toddler room.
7. Lacquered surfaces on a dolls house and on two shelving units in the Toddler and Montessori rooms were worn away.
8. One blind cord which was not in reach of the children was not secured in Montessori 1.
9. A lock on a small gate in the outdoor area which separates the different age groups of children was broken and in need of repair.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. All the skirting boards radiator covers and window sills have been freshly painted and the rooms have had a deep clean. The manager will review rooms on a monthly basis.
2. The service engaged a painter who treated this area and painted the entire ceiling. The manager will review rooms monthly and will organise maintenance where required.
3. Toilets seats are replaced. The manager will inspect toilets as part of their daily morning inspection risk assessment.
4. The sink is now secure. The manager will check toilets as part of the daily morning inspection.
5. The play house has been replaced with a heavy-duty plastic playhouse and the manager will inform the owner when items need to be replaced.
6. The lino has been replaced in Montessori room 1 with a wooden floor. Due to finances the Toddler room floor was not replaced but it was given a deep clean. The three toy units were replaced the service intends to replace this floor in October or sooner if finances allow. The owner will take monthly inspections of the rooms and premises.
7. Dolls houses have been replaced. This was discussed at the staff meeting regarding the risk assessment.
8. The cord has been fixed. This was discussed as part of the risk assessment checklist.
9. The lock on the gate has been repaired. Staff have been made aware the staff meeting if they see anything in the back garden that would be a risk to the children's safety the staff sign an outdoor checklist.

Supporting documentation submitted

Documentation was reviewed.

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Summary Comment

The actions taken by the registered provider has addressed the non-compliances. Regulation 29 (d) will be reviewed on the next inspection.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

(2) A registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that the minimum amount of clear floor space specified in column (3) of Schedule 7 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Schedule in respect of the age range of children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is available for each child in that age range attending the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Adequate clear floor space was not available for the work, play and movement of eight children attending the backroom between 2.30pm – 5pm, on the 22 April 2026. The children ranged in age from 3-5 years. This room measured 16.48 m². The minimum amount of clear floor space of 2.3 m² required for each child attending the service on a full day care was not available. The maximum number of children this room can cater for on a fulltime basis is seven children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The service has reduced the number of children in this room to 7. The manager will check that the correct floor space is adhered to.

Supporting documentation submitted

No documentation was submitted.

Summary Comment

The regulatory requirement has been met.