

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY003

Name of Service: ABC Childcare & Montessori

Address of Service: 478 Griffith Avenue, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

Eircode: D11 F5N2

Name of Registered Provider: Eileen Keogh

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 08/07/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	19	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate 2nd Floor, Unit 4/5 The Nexus Building Blanchardstown Corporate Park Ballycoolin Dublin 15 D15 CF9K
Inspection undertaken by:	C Kerrigan
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

ABC Childcare and Montessori is a privately run full day care service which is located in a residential area of north Dublin, adjacent to the home of the registered provider. The service is registered to provide Early Childhood Care and Education for up to 24 children aged between 0-6 years of age.

The service is open from 7:45am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.

The service is comprised of two care rooms, both of which were open on the day of inspection, these included the Wobbler/Toddler room which catered for children aged 1-3 years and the Montessori room which catered for children aged 4-5 years.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was available to the children, which was located at the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The registered provider employs six staff, to include the person in charge and five early years staff. The person in charge and four early years workers present on the day of inspection. The registered provider does not work 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, safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The scope of the inspection included the Wobbler/Toddler room and the Montessori rooms.

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 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 registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that the person in charge was present at all times during the inspection.
- (2) The files of six adults working within the service and the registered provider were reviewed in full on the day of inspection.
- (a) The registered provider ensured that seven written and validated references were available from a previous employer for the adults working within the service.

- (b) The registered provider ensured that seven written and validated references were available from a person other than a previous employer for the adults working within the service.
 - (c) The registered provider ensured that Garda vetting disclosures has been obtained for seven adults. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under Regulation 23 of this report.
 - (d) The registered provider ensured that Police vetting was available for one adult who has resided in a state other than the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.
- (4) The registered provider and the six adults who work directly with the children whose records were reviewed held a major award at Level 5 or higher in Early Childhood Care and Education on the National Qualifications Framework.

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) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working with the children in the service at all times throughout the day. Five early years staff were available in the building to meet the care needs of nineteen children who were present on the day of inspection.

(2) The registered provider ensured that the adult to child ratios were maintained within the service on the day of inspection. This was further evidenced in the roster.

- (8)
- (a) A review of the staff roster and conversation with the adults present on the day, the registered provider ensured that there were two adults present during the operational hours of the service.

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;

(3) A record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection on the premises, and the documents and records referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall be open to inspection whether on the premises or elsewhere, by an authorised person.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (i) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was kept of the staff roster which outlined each staff members daily attendance, working hours, break times, the roster reviewed reflected the staff present on the day of inspection.
- (3) The registered provider ensured that a record in writing was available for inspection on the premises by the inspector.

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

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured that the children's learning, development and wellbeing was facilitated within the service in the following ways.

Basic Needs:

- The children were provided with regular lunch and snacks throughout their time in the service. Lunch and snacks were prepared on site. On the day of inspection children were observed to have a snack of grapes, banana and apples appropriately cut to their developmental age, a hot lunch of chicken, wedges, vegetables or cottage pie was served later in the day. Children drank from their own water bottles or individual cups. Mealtimes were observed to be social and pleasurable experience for the children, at a pace that best suited the children's pace.
- There was a rest area available in the care room if the children needed to engage in more restful activities.
- Children's independence and self-care skills were encouraged within the service. For example: a child was observed to have a runny nose, staff took the time to educate them on nasal hygiene and hand hygiene techniques. A nasal hygiene station was set up in the care room with a mirror and tissues to focus and develop these self-care skills.
- Nappy changing was not observed on the day however through conversation with staff nappy changing was completed on a scheduled basis and as needed. A number of children in the Wobbler/Toddler room were observed to be recently toilet trained with adults picking up on cues for toileting, children had unrestricted access to the toilet throughout the day with praise given in a child centred manner.
- Strategies such as observation, distraction, clear instruction on what was unacceptable, and appropriate supervision was used to support children's behaviours. Adults were able to demonstrate to the inspector the strategies used to assist children manage negative behaviours in a positive child centred manner.

Supporting Relationships

- The adults in the service were observed to interact with the children in a responsive, warm and respectful manner. Adults sat with children during play and mealtimes, involving themselves in the children's play and meal experiences when invited. This provides opportunities to support children's learning and development.
- The adults within the service were observed to speak to each other in a professional and warm manner, working as a team to meet the changing needs of the children.
- Adults in the service reported that information such as toileting, food and sleep is shared with parents daily through a software application, with drop off and collection times also used as an opportunity for information sharing. The service also maintained a learning journal for each child; this shared with the parents bridging the gap between the service and home.

Physical and Material Environment.

- The furniture in the room was low level and appropriate for the children attending. With toys, equipment and play materials easily accessible and visible to the children on low level units which nurtured independence and facilitated choice.
- Images of children and their families and artwork was displayed throughout the room which promoted a sense of identity and belonging.
- The children had access to the outdoor play environment throughout the day. This is scheduled but also available to children if and when they needed. This area had absorbent artificial flooring, a mud kitchen, a slide, saws, construction materials, stepping blocks giving an array of options to develop gross motor and problem-solving skills.

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 main entrance to the service was secure upon the inspectors unannounced arrival at the service. access was granted via a doorbell system in which a staff member answered, therefore preventing access to the children from unauthorised persons, this also prevented children from exiting the service unsupervised.

- Hazardous materials such as cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- There were no trailing flexes in either the care rooms or outdoor area.
- The kitchen door remained closed throughout the inspection.

Infection Control:

- The service was clean and well maintained throughout. Cleaning schedules were on display throughout the service outlining the frequency of cleaning.
- Toilet roll was hygienically stored and in easy reach of the children, preventing cross contamination.
- Soothers were stored in individual labelled containers when not in use.
- Thermostatically controlled water, liquid soap and single use paper towels were in use throughout the service from hand drying purposes, ensuring good handwashing practices.

Administration of Medication:

- Medications were not routinely given within the service however staff demonstrated knowledge on the procedure for medication administration if required. Temperature reducing medications were safely stored within the service and available for use if required.

Safe Sleep:

- There was enough cots and floor beds available for children who required a sleep.
- The registered provider ensured that physical 10-minute sleep checks were undertaken by adults and recorded on a software application.

Fire Safety:

- Fire escapes were clear and free from obstruction and easily identifiable in each room.
- Adults were able to clearly outline fire drills and evacuation procedures.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one adult. However, this vetting disclosure was not dated within the previous three years in adherence with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. A renewed Garda vetting request has been submitted and the application is in process. Garda vetting for all staff members will be reviewed within the time frame.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

1. Evidence has been submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions submitted by the service has been partially accepted it is acknowledged that a process is underway to address this non-compliance. This will be reviewed on the next inspection.

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 firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (c) an authorised person.
- (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) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept in writing of the fire drills within the service. The last recorded fire drill was dated the 3 July 2025.
 - (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was available indicating the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment with records demonstrating they were last serviced in December 2024 and the number type and maintenance of mains powered smoke alarms throughout the service, there were last serviced on the 16 January 2025.
- (2)
- (c) The registered provider ensured that the fire drill and maintenance records were available for review by the Inspector.
- (4) The registered provider ensured that a notice was displayed throughout the service indicating the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the premises was insured as a full day care service for the minimum number of children registered. The certificate viewed had an expiry date of the 27 March 2026.