

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier: TU2015DY068

Name of Service: Fairview Creche and Montessori

Address of Service: 22 Addison Road, Fairview, Dublin 3

Eircode: D03 V308

Name of Registered Provider: Pauline Fitzmaurice

Service type: Full Day

Date of Inspection: 03/07/2025

No of pre-school children:	AM	27	PM	26
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 7 th Floor Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 D08X01K
Inspection undertaken by:	L.A Webster
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
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Description of service

Fairview creche and Montessori is a privately owned full day service based in a purposely adapted residential unit in Dublin 3. The service offers full day care to children aged from 0-6 years from 8am-6pm, Monday-Friday and participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) scheme. There are 4 care rooms within the service that include:

Room name	Age group
Tiny Turtles Room	11 months-2 years
Star Fish Room	Not in use
Octopus Room	2-3 years
Shark Room	3-5 years

Additionally, the service has a kitchen with an adjacent dining room, an office, staffroom and sanitary facilities. An enclosed outdoor area is located at the rear of the service.

Staffing

The registered provider does not work within the service and employs 13 adults that work in the service. This includes a person in charge, deputy person in charge, 10 childcare staff, and one ancillary staff member who is the chef. Additionally, there is an external contractor who delivers a weekly activity to the children in the service. On the morning of inspection, there was 8 adults present including the deputy person in charge, 6 adults working directly with the children and the chef. The registered provider was not present on the day of inspection. Shortly after the inspection commenced, the person in charge arrived and remained at the service to help facilitate the inspection process.

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.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, deputy 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
- (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.

(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 to deputise as required.
 - (b) A review of the roster evidenced that either the person in charge or the deputy person in charge were rostered to be present during the operational hours of the service.
 - (c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was further evidenced through discussion with staff.
- (2) A review of paperwork and discussion with the deputy person in charge showed that there are currently 13 staff employed by the registered provider to work within the service. The files of 5 new staff and 1 external contractor who had commenced employment following the previous inspection on the 22 May 2023 were reviewed. Garda vetting disclosures were reviewed for all staff that are currently employed within the service.

- (a) There were 10 written and validated references available from past employers.
 - (b) There were 2 written and validated references from a source other than a past employer.
 - (c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all 13 staff members and the external contractor who delivers a weekly activity to the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
 - (d) Police vetting was available for 3 adults who had lived in a country other than Ireland for a period of six months or more as an adult.
- (4) Evidence was available to show that all 10 adults who worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a minimum of level 5 on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification that is deemed of equivalence by the minister.

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) On the day of inspection, there were 27 children being cared for by 6 adults in the morning and 26 children being cared for by 6 adults in the afternoon. Additionally, the person in charge and the deputy person in charge were available to provide support in the care rooms as needed.
- (2) The adult child ratios were correct when the inspector arrived unannounced to the service and throughout the inspection. Staff were aware of the required ratios for the age range of children within the rooms.

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.

Compliance Information

1 (a) The following practices were observed to be in place to support the children in the service.

Basic Needs:

- The service provided a hot meal option for children which was freshly prepared on site, for example, at dinnertime Spaghetti Bolognese with peppers and onions was served at 11:15am. There was an alternative food option should children require, and extra food was available upon request. Individually labelled water bottles were available for the children to access.
- Children's 'family and 'birthday' walls were displayed within the care rooms, alongside their individual pieces of artwork. This demonstrated a sense of identity for the children.
- Cosy areas were available for the children to rest or read as they needed.
- Children were observed to play outdoors during the inspection, which supported their social, gross, and cognitive development

Supporting Relationships:

- There was a strong sense of teamwork and supporting relationships between staff members within the service. And it was observed that they spoke to each other in respectful, and professional manner.
- Children were observed to move freely around the care rooms and independently engage with activities.
- Mealtimes were observed as meaningful between children and staff, this was particularly evident when staff would engage in fun conversations about the children's food and its texture, taste and so on.
- Staff were observed to be kind with their interactions, verbal and body language towards the children. This was evident during nappy changing times, when staff reiterated the process in a kind and nurturing way.
- Parents/guardians were given information on their child's food intake, toileting, activities and sleep through an electronic platform and informal engagement upon collection.

Equipment and Materials:

- The layout of the care rooms facilitated children's choices as the toys and resources were displayed on low level shelving for easy access.
- Chairs and tables were observed to be developmentally appropriate for the age and stage of the children.
- The outdoor play area was furnished with artificial grass and anchored play structures that allowed children of all ages to explore and engage in various types of play. Additionally, there was a small corner within the garden that contained various sensory materials for children to play with.

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 secure upon the inspectors' arrival and was secured throughout the inspection to prevent any children from leaving the service unsupervised and restrict any unauthorised access to the service. Additionally, the outdoor area was securely fenced and gated.
- The care rooms were observed to be in good conditions, with no visible hazards or trailing wires.
- Blind cords were securely attached to the wall and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely and locked out of reach of children.
- Shelving units were firmly anchored to the wall to ensure stability and safety.
- Risk assessments were available throughout the service, were up to date and signed by management
- The kitchen area was inaccessible to children and the door remained closed throughout the inspection.
- In discussion with staff, the service operates a nut free and popcorn free zone. Additionally, staff reiterated their knowledge and understanding of beaded jewellery and ensured that it would be immediately removed if observed within the service.

Infection Control:

- Upon arrival, it was observed that the service was clean and hygienic, with up-to-date cleaning schedules available and observed within the care rooms.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid hand soap, and paper towels were available for appropriate hand washing practices. Both staff and children were observed to show familiarity with routine hand washing after nappy changing, dinner time and outdoor play.

- Foot operated pedal bins were in use for the appropriate disposal of waste in the care rooms and sanitary facilities. These were observed to be in good working order.
- An ambient temperature of 16-22°C was maintained in the care rooms, and the windows were open to allow fresh circulation of air.
- Within the sanitary room, children had individually labelled storage areas for their nappies, creams and wipes to avoid any cross contamination.
- Upon observation, it was evident that children had individual bed linen that was clean and in good condition. This was further reinforced by staff, who reiterated their laundry routines.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was not given at the time of inspection. Through discussion, staff were familiar with the practices required for the administration of medication to children attending the service.
- Observation showed that medication was stored safely and out of reach of children.
- In discussion with staff, it was evident that they were aware of medical care plans for children and where the emergency medication is stored. In addition to this, staff were aware of the procedures to take in relation to potential anaphylaxis and the administering of emergency treatment if the event occurred.

Safe Sleep:

- Staff were noted to be aware of safe sleep practices and children were observed to be monitored while sleeping every 10 minutes. Staff ensured to document this through electronic format highlighting the children's breathing, position, and colour of each child.
- Cots were positioned at 50cms apart, cots and mattresses were observed to be in good condition.
- An ambient temperature of 18-22°C was maintained for sleeping children who were aged over 1 years old.

Fire Safety:

- All fire emergency exit doors were clear from obstruction. This helped ensure the safe effective evacuation of children and staff in the event of an emergency.

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 person in charge was trained in First Aid Response (FAR), expiry date of April 2027 and was immediately available to the children attending the service. Additionally, the person in charge ensured that four staff held up to date FAR certification and were immediately available to the children as needed.
- (2) (a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, and unobstructed if needed to access quickly.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box was available at all times to the adults caring for children attending the service.

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.*
- (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 records available demonstrated that fire drills are held monthly within the service and the service conducted a fire drill on the 09 June 2025.
- (b) A record was available detailing the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarm systems in the premises.
- Records demonstrate that the firefighting equipment had been serviced annually, with the last service taking place on the 09 September 2024.

- Records demonstrate that the smoke alarms have been serviced on a quarterly bases with the last service taking place on the 28 June 2025.

(4) A visual notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was consistently displayed around the service.

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 pre-school service was adequately insured, with an expiry date of 27 March 2026.