

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY184		
Name of Service:	Silverspoon Pre-School & Montessori		
Address of Service:	41 Charleville Road, North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Co. Dublin		
Eircode:	D07 TY74		
Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Hurley		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date of Inspection:	15/01/2026		
No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Child and Family Agency Unit 4& 5 Nexus Building Block 6A Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin 15		
Inspection undertaken by:	Á Dunne		
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

Silverspoon Preschool and Montessori is a private service which operates from two care rooms on the ground floor of a residential home. The sessional service in Dublin 7 provides care and education for children aged between 2 years 8 months to 6 years and operates from 9am to 12pm Monday to Friday. An enclosed outdoor area was available to the children at the front of the premises

Staffing

The service employs two staff to include the registered provider and one childcare staff. There were two adults present on the day of inspection working directly with 13 children.

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, premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,19,23,25,26 and 28. 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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, the staff member 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) and (b) The registered provider and staff member were on the premises when the inspector arrived unannounced and were present during the inspection.

(2)(a) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that:

(b) Two validated written references were available from a source other than a previous employer for the one staff member.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for two adults employed in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was not required for two adults employed in the service as they had not lived outside of the state for six consecutive months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to demonstrate that two adults working directly with children in 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.

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) There were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children as there were two adults caring for 13 children aged between 2years 8months to 5 years of age.

(3) The correct adult to child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection at all times as there were 2 adults caring for 13 children aged between 2.8-5 years of age.

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

Basic Needs:

- Lunchtime was at 10.45 am for the children who attend the sessional service. The children's water bottles were available for the children to drink.
- Lunchtime was observed to be a relaxed and sociable event, with children given time to sit at low tables appropriate to their age. Children were observed to eat independently, but staff were on hand to help as required, supporting independence and wellbeing.
- Toilet visits were completed before lunchtime and as needed to ensure each child's comfort.

- Children had access to the outdoor play area during the day of inspection.

Supporting relationships:

- The staff interacted with the children in a respectful, warm and sensitive manner. The atmosphere within the service remained calm and pleasant throughout the inspection.
- Staff interacted playfully with the children, during lunchtime, and tabletop activities of jigsaws and wooden puzzles, playing with sand as a sensory play and playing in the home corner with dolls and the play kitchen.
- The service communicates with parents through a text message phone application.

Physical and Material Environment:

- The two classrooms were bright and laid out in a variety of designated areas of interest for the children with activities including:
 - Home areas (play kitchen with supporting equipment, dolls and doll accessories),
 - Construction areas (wooden building blocks, small and large plastic bricks, trains and train tracks,),
 - Tabletop activities (pegs and peg boards, wooden puzzles and jigsaws, practical life and sensorial exercises
 - Small world play (dinosaurs, animals, garage, trucks, cars),
 - Sensory area (boxes with sand and supporting equipment.)
 - A rest area was available in the classroom to enable children to rest and take a break from activities, they consisted of a couch with cushions and books.

All the materials and equipment in the classroom were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending nurturing children's independence, ability to make decisions, and develop their play opportunities

- Children were observed to take activities of their choice which were accessible on low level shelving.
- Tables and chairs were of suitable size and available for eating lunch and for table-top activities.
- Children's artwork was displayed on the walls.
- The outdoor area consisted of concrete surface and provided opportunities for the children to play, run and do action songs.

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 secure. This reduced the risk of unauthorised access or the unsupervised exit of a child. The outdoor area was fully enclosed and secure.
- The arrival and departure times were recorded accurately in attendance record for children
- The pre-school children were supervised at all times during the session.
- No trailing flexes were observed, and cleaning agents were stored out of reach of children.
- The play equipment and materials in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good condition.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 18°C at 10.32am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.
- The temperature of the radiators did not exceed the recommended 50 ° C; they measured as follows:

Radiator	Temperature recorded	Time recorded
1	43 ° C	10.51am
2	39 ° C	10.55am
3	48 ° C	10.35am

Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Children were supported and encouraged to wash their hands before and after snack time and after toilet visits.
- Tables were cleaned in preparation for lunch, by the registered provider.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Children's lunches which are brought from home were stored in a fridge to prevent spoiling of perishable items

Fire Safety:

- Monthly fire drills were carried out in the service.
- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed.

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 was trained in first aid response and was available on the premises at all times.

(a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service and was available to the children in 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 reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 19 December 2025.

(b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. demonstrating they were last serviced on 18 March 2025.

(4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the care room and observed by the Inspector

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The insurance certificate reviewed demonstrated that the service was insured for a maximum of 22 children per session with an expiry date of 27 November 2026