

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY266
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Name of Service:	Sundrive Nursery & Montessori School
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Address of Service:	24b Sundrive Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	D12 C958
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Name of Registered Provider:	Noeleen Tynan
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Service type:	Full Day
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Date of Inspection:	29/01/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	23	PM	23
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	1st floor Trinity Building, IDA Business Park, Southern Cross Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Quigley & R. Brien
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

Sundrive Nursery & Montessori School is a privately owned service which was established in 1993 by the current registered provider. The service is registered to provide full day care to children aged 0-6 years and also offers an early childhood care and education scheme. The service is registered to operate from 07:30 to 18:30 each weekday and is located in an urban area of Kimmage, South County Dublin. The service operates from a purposely adapted single storey premises to the rear of another property on Sundrive Road and consists of three care rooms. A fully enclosed outdoor play area is available and located to the front of the premises with a shock absorbent surfacing.

Staffing

The service currently employs six staff members, not including the registered provider who does not work directly in the premises and was not present during the inspection. All six staff members employed were present 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 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.

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The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 19, 23, and 30; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29 Premises. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 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,*

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- (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) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise was available in their absence.
- (b) The designated person in charge was on the premises at all times during the inspection.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in place in the service which staff members detailed during discussions with the inspectors.

(2)

Documentation required under regulation 9(2)(3)(4) was reviewed in respect of two adults who the designated person in charge confirmed had commenced employment in the service since the last date of inspection on the 10 March 2025.

- (a) (b) There were two references each available for each of the adults which had been appropriately verified.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for each of the nine adults.
- (d) International police vetting was available for the two adults who had both lived outside the state for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been carried out prior to the adults commencing employment.

(4)

Documentation reviewed evidenced that both of the adults held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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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 pre-school children attending the service during the inspection.
- (2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 23 pre-school children attending the service being supervised by 6 adults during the 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-*
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Some appropriate and suitable care practices were observed to be in place. Meals and snacks were offered to the children regularly throughout the day and additional food was provided if children were still hungry. Drinks of water were available within the rooms and were observed to be offered regularly. Self-feeding was promoted in younger care rooms and staff assisted children where required. Bibs were provided to protect younger children's clothes at mealtimes and children's clothing. Children's nappies were changed routinely and as needed. Staff spoke to the children in gentle, positive tones and children were comforted promptly if they became upset.

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An area with matting and cushions was provided within the rooms where the children could rest or take a break from activities. Materials were made accessible to the children on low level shelving, facilitating their choice of play. Babies and younger children were provided with the opportunity to sleep at a designated time after lunch. The children were made comfortable for sleep, with staff removing their shoes and outer clothing, and providing soothers to those who used them. Staff stated they communicate daily with parents and maintained records regarding individual children's care to share at the end of the day including information about activities, diet, sleep, and nappy changes.

Non-Compliance Information

Some care practices observed on the day of inspection were not appropriate and suitable to the age and the needs of the children in attendance and may negatively affect the health and well being of a child as follows;

1. Children's movement was restricted unnecessarily for prolonged periods of time in the Baby room leading into dinner time. For example, one child was observed seated strapped into a highchair from 11:04am to 11:59am. During this time, the child was displaying signs of tiredness yawning, becoming upset and rubbing their eyes.
2. Some children's faces and noses were not appropriately cleaned throughout the inspection. For example, one child who had heavy nasal discharges did not have their face washed, despite staff members interacting directing with the child providing personal care. Although the child's nose was wiped at times, the child was left with heavy accumulations of dried in mucus on their face.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1 & 2

The use of highchairs was addressed immediately. Staff were reminded that highchairs are to be used strictly for active feeding purposes only and for the minimum time required. Children must not remain restrained outside mealtimes and must be returned to floor level promptly following meals. The Baby Room routine was reviewed to ensure that no child remains seated waiting in a highchair during transitions and that movement back to floor level occurs without delay. Expectations regarding responsive care were reinforced, including recognising and responding promptly to children's signs of tiredness. The child's transition to rest time was reviewed to ensure fatigue cues are acted upon without delay. Staff were reminded that children must be kept clean and comfortable throughout the day and that visible nasal discharge must be addressed promptly and consistently. Appropriate hygienic methods for cleaning children's hands and faces were clarified. Staff were instructed that cleaning materials must not be reused in a manner that could present a risk of cross-contamination. Where required, clean

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disposable cotton or tissues with warm water may be used to ensure effective and hygienic cleaning. Disposable wipes are now readily available in the room to ensure prompt and hygienic response when required.

A post-inspection review meeting was held with staff to formally revisit Regulation 19 requirements. Highchair use, freedom of movement principles, responsive care expectations and personal hygiene standards were reviewed collectively to ensure consistent understanding and implementation.

Personal care standards, including prompt response to visible nasal discharge and maintaining children's comfort and dignity throughout the day, have been reinforced. Practice in relation to freedom of movement and personal care has been incorporated into the weekly managerial monitoring process to ensure sustained compliance and prevent recurrence. Updated guidance applies to all relevant staff and will be reviewed with any staff member returning from absence.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance identified. 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

The inspectors found through observation of practice, review of documentation, discussion with staff and inspection of the premises that the registered provider had taken the following steps to safeguard the children attending:

General Safety:

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order. The entrances into the service were appropriately secured to prevent unauthorised access or a child exiting the service unsupervised.

Infection Control:

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An infection control policy was in place to inform practice. Staff stated appropriate exclusion periods for adults and children with infectious illnesses were implemented in the service as per the policy. Pedal operated bins were in place throughout the service for the disposal of waste.

Administration of Medication:

There was written evidence of prior parental consent for the administration of both temperature reducing and prescribed medications. Staff members detailed during discussions with the inspectors the procedures in place for the administration of medication. Documentation was available in the service to record the administration of medications when required. A sample of these documents reviewed contained all of the necessary details.

Safe Sleep:

Sleep logs were maintained in the cot room and the care room where children slept, and individual observations recorded room temperature, breathing, colour, and position every ten minutes. The temperature of the rooms where children slept were maintained at the required temperature ranges.

Fire Safety:

The designated fire escape routes were clearly indicated and free from obstruction on the day of inspection. Staff members adequately outlined the evacuation procedures in place in the event of a fire and stated that fire drills are practiced regularly on a monthly basis.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Electrical cables were observed hanging in reach of the children in the Toddler room from a high-level wall socket posing a risk of harm to a child.

Infection Control:

Some practices observed were ineffective for infection control purposes, posed a risk of cross contamination, and were at variance with the infection control policy and associated procedures in place in the service as follows.

2. In the Baby room, individual face cloths were in use to clean children's hands and faces. These face cloths were used throughout the day of inspection to clean the children's hands, faces after eating, and noses when soiled. The cloths were placed in individual baskets between uses and were not cleaned.
3. Children's hands were not effectively cleaned prior to eating in the Baby room. Children were observed having their hands washed with soiled fabric face clothes before eating which had been used to clean their noses, hands, and faces throughout the day of inspection.
4. One staff member was observed to change two children's nappies with no handwashing after or in between the two changes.

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5. A mattress provided for a child to sleep on during the inspection did not have a waterproof covering on it and was placed directly onto the floor in the care room for the child to sleep.
6. Four sheets in use in the Toddler room for children to sleep on were visibly stained and soiled and required cleaning.
7. The pedal operated bin in the Montessori room was broken during the inspection meaning the bin lid had to be handled for disposal of waste.

Safe Sleep:

8. A child attending the Toddler room who was aged under 2 years was placed to sleep on a mattress on the floor where a standard cot or an approved floor bed are required. There was no sleep plan available for the child in the service or any of the children aged under two years. This is at variance with the safe sleep policy and associated procedures in place in the service.
9. Three children aged one year were observed sleeping with fleeced blankets in the service posing a risk of harm from overheating.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. This was addressed immediately on the day of inspection. The cable was repositioned to ensure it was no longer accessible to children.

Infection Control:

2. The use of individual face cloths was addressed immediately and the correct procedure for safe storage, single use between laundering and separation of nose cleaning and hand hygiene was clarified with staff. All cloths in use were removed and laundered.
3. Effective hand hygiene prior to meals was reinforced and staff were instructed to ensure appropriate cleaning of children's hands before eating.
4. The correct nappy changing procedure, including full handwashing between each individual change, was reviewed and reinforced with staff.
5. The mattress without a waterproof covering that had been placed directly on the floor was removed from use without delay and replaced with compliant sleep equipment.
6. The stained sheets identified in the Toddler Room were removed from use immediately and all bedding was reviewed.

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7. The broken pedal-operated bin in the Montessori Room was removed and replaced to ensure hands-free waste disposal.

Safe Sleep:

Safe sleep (8-9):

8. & 9.

The mattress was removed from use immediately. A compliant cot was introduced for all children under two years of age. Sleep environments across the service were reviewed to ensure alignment with the Safe Sleep Policy. Individual Sleep Plan documentation was implemented for all children under two years.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted by the registered provider and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance identified. The regulatory requirement has been met.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-

- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Non-Compliance Information

(c)
Parts of the premises were not adequately heated. During the inspection, inspectors recorded room temperatures below the required range of 18-22° Celsius as outlined below;

Montessori room	16.1° Celsius
Children's toilet & nappy changing room	13.6° Celsius

The inspectors observed children to be inadequately clothed for the temperatures, wearing only light tops at times and whilst removing clothing to use the toilet or during nappy changes.

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(d)

The inspectors observed that parts of the premises were not adequately cleaned and maintained as required, as evidenced by the following:

- In the Toddler room, areas of the walls were heavily chipped, stained, and soiled, and had a sticky residue in parts.
- In the Toddler room and the Baby room, areas of the flooring and skirtings had a build up of dirt, dust, and debris and needed a deep clean.
- The play kitchen in use in the Baby room had a paper covering on it which was wearing away in parts exposing a sticky residue which could not be effectively cleaned.
- The laminate covering on some shelves and room partitions in the service was worn away and chipped exposing a porous wooden surface beneath which could not be effectively cleaned.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

Heating settings were reviewed and adjusted immediately. Room temperatures were monitored following adjustment to ensure they reached the required range. The matter was addressed with staff on the day of inspection and expectations regarding maintaining appropriate room temperature were clarified.

(d)

Following inspection findings, the entire service was repainted to restore wall surfaces to an appropriate standard. A full deep clean of flooring and skirting boards was carried out in the Toddler and Baby Rooms to remove any build-up of dirt, dust and debris. The play kitchen in use in the Baby Room was repaired. The worn covering was removed and replaced with a washable surface to ensure effective cleanability. Laminate covering on shelving and room partitions that had worn away was removed and replaced to ensure that all surfaces can be effectively cleaned.

Supporting documentation submitted

Supporting documentation was submitted and reviewed by the early years inspector.

Summary Comment

The actions as stated by the registered provider will address the non-compliance. These actions will be reviewed on the next inspection of the service. The regulatory requirement has been met.

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Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 30 - Minimum space requirements

- (1) Subject to paragraphs (2) to (6), a registered provider shall ensure that adequate clear floor space is available in the premises for the work, play and movement of children attending the pre-school service.*
- (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.*

Compliance Information

The inspection of Regulation 30 was limited to the Montessori room to assess corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider following the last inspection of the service on the 10 March 2025. During discussions with staff members and a review of attendance records in the service, it was confirmed that a maximum of nine preschool children attend the Montessori room at any one time. The regulatory requirement has been met.