

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015DY276
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Name of Service:	Lansdowne Lodge Preschool Montessori
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Address of Service:	6 Lansdowne Terrace, Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Co. Dublin
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Eircode:	DO4 VY67
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Name of Registered Provider:	Margaret Smyth
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Service type:	Full Day
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Dates of Inspection:	15/04/2024
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Date 2 of Inspection:	16/04/2024
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No of pre-school children:	AM	81	PM	82
Day 2	AM	84	PM	81

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	The Brunel Building, Heuston South Quarter, St. John's Road West, Dublin 8
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Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien & F. Carty
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Title:	Early Years Inspectors
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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

Lansdowne Lodge Preschool Montessori provides full day care for children from 16 months to 5 years of age. The service operates from 08:00 to 18:00, Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a residential area of Dublin south city in an adapted domestic dwelling over three floors. Care is delivered across four care units. The Tiny Tots unit caters for children aged 1 year. The Transition unit and the Junior Montessori units cater for children aged 2 years. The Senior Montessori 1 and Senior Montessori 2 units cater for children from 3 to 5 years of age. There is a separate purpose-built structure located in the outdoor area, called the Pavillion, which the children access for Montessori activities on a regular basis. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the rear of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs 24 staff including the manager, an administrative assistant and a chef. There were 20 staff and one student working directly with the children on the first day of inspection and 20 staff working directly with the children on the second day of inspection. The registered provider is not involved in the day-to-day operation of the service and was not 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.

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

9 (1)(a)(b),(2),(4) Management and Recruitment,
11(1),(2),(8)(a) Staffing Levels,
16(h),(i),(j),(k) Record in relation to pre-school service,
19(1)(a)(b) Health, Welfare and Development of Child,
20(1)(b) Facilities for Rest and Play
23 Safeguarding, Health, Safety and Welfare of Child,
25 First Aid,
26(1)(4) Fire Safety Measures,
29(c),(d) Premises

However, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under the following regulations:

21 Equipment and Materials
27 Supervision
29(e) Premises

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

16(h)(j)(k) – Record in relation to pre-school service,
19(1)(a)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,
23 - Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the Tiny Tots, Transition, Junior Montessori and Senior Montessori 1 units.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulations:

29(c) - Premises.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the sanitary area adjacent to the Tiny Tots unit and the Junior Montessori unit.

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.

Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 15 April 2024 for non-compliance with regulation 23 as two gates and a door at the front of the service were not secured to prevent unauthorised access during the first day of inspection.

The registered provider submitted a response on 16 April 2024 which was deemed to satisfactorily address this non-compliance.

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

(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)(b) The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Following a discussion with the manager it was confirmed that seven adults commenced working in the service since the last inspection on 24 October 2023. Documentation was reviewed in respect of these adults and one external contractor and met regulatory requirements as follows:

(a)(b) Of the sixteen references that were required, fourteen were available from a past employer and two were available from a reputable source.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the eight adults.

Three staff files were reviewed to assess compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Renewed Garda vetting was available for two staff, however, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice for the third staff member. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) Police vetting was required for the eight staff members and was available for six staff members who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult.

(4) Records were available evidencing that six staff members who were employed to work directly with the children held the required qualification or equivalent. One of these staff members held a qualification recognition letter from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(d) Police vetting was required from two countries for two adults who had lived outside the State for a period exceeding six months as an adult. It is acknowledged that Police vetting was available from one country in respect of both adults, however Police vetting from a second country which was required for these two adults was not available.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

Police Vetting from two countries for two adults has been acquired. The unavailability for the outstanding certificate was due to the USA making the process very difficult. All vetting for all countries lived in for more than 6 months will be sought. Prospective employees must declare all countries lived in, prior to starting employment so that appropriate vetting certificates are acquired.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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

(8)(a) There were at least two adults on the premises at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

11(1) The registered provider did not ensure that at all times there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children.

11(2) The minimum ratio of adults to children was not maintained in the service at all times. An insufficient number of adults was available to the children attending on a full day care basis on both days of inspection in the Junior Montessori and Senior Montessori 1 units as outlined below:

Junior Montessori Unit

1. On the first day of inspection from 12:00 to 12:30 there were two adults caring for thirteen children in the Junior Montessori unit. These children were in the 2-3 year age range and were attending on a full day care basis. Three adults were required during this time.
2. On the second day of inspection from inspection from 12:00 to 12:30 there were two adults caring for fourteen children in the Junior Montessori unit. These children were in the 2-3 year age range and were attending on a full day care basis. Three adults were required during this time.

The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 2-3 year age range is 1:6.

Senior Montessori 1 Unit

3. On the first day of inspection from 12:30 to 13:10 there were three adults caring for thirty-one children in the Senior Montessori 1 unit. These children were in the 3-6 year age range and were attending on a full day care basis. Four adults were required during this time.
4. On the second day of inspection from 11:30 to 14:30 there were four adults caring for thirty-three children in the Senior Montessori 1 unit. These children were in the 3-6 year age range and were attending on a full day care basis. Five adults were required during this time.

The minimum ratio of adults to children for the 3-6 year age range is 1:8.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

11(1)

Staff Rosters have been reorganised in order to ensure that at all times of the day, the staff to child ratio is adhered to. Five staff will be available in the Senior Montessori Unit at all times to account for 35 children in the Unit. In addition, additional employees have been hired on a permanent basis to ensure there is an adequate number of adults working directly with children. Cover staff available everyday to cover breaks and lunches. Unit Heads are informed that if they are at risk of being over ratio at any point of the day, management must be notified and appropriate cover will be given – this includes the possibility of management covering in rooms if necessary.

11(2)

As above, additional staff employed and newly reorganised staff rosters have addressed issues 1-4 to ensure that at all points in the day, the staff, child ratio is adhered to.

All Unit Heads are acutely aware of importance of adherence to ratios. If there is a change to the roster or someone is not available or sick then there is additional staff to cover (Management) in order to ensure ratios are always adhered to.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address these non-compliances. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

(h) Details of the attendance of each child in the Tiny Tots, Transition, Junior Montessori and Senior Montessori 1 units were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.

(i) The staff roster was available on both days of inspection and accurately reflected the adults working in the service on each day.

(k) A sample of twenty accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

Non-Compliance Information

(j)
It is acknowledged that staff adequately detailed the procedures for administering medication, if required, to inspectors and that staff were observed taking appropriate safety measures when administering medicine to a child in the Tiny Tots unit on the first day of inspection in line with the service's administration of medication policy. However, a sample of twenty-three medication administration records were reviewed and four of these records were incomplete. One record was not signed by staff and three records were not signed by a second staff member as a witness to the administration of the medication contrary to the service's administration of medication policy.

Failure to maintain accurate administration of medication records and to have medication administration witnessed poses a risk to the children.

This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 October 2023. The corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

In addition to weekly administrative checks on all forms Unit Heads will now do daily checks on all forms in units. This document will be displayed in the unit. Ensuring that checks are done as advised both daily with unit heads and weekly with administrative assistant checks.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next 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-

(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

(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)(a)(b)

The service had a healthy eating policy in place and the manager reported that all meals are provided by the service. Children are offered breakfast on arrival. Dinner was served between 11:00 and 11:30. Children were given a drink at dinnertime. Younger children in the Tiny Tots unit were provided with bibs for dinnertime.

Children's care needs were observed to be met promptly. Staff were observed cleaning children's faces after dinner and cleaning children's noses as required in the Tiny Tots, Transition and Junior Montessori units. Children were encouraged and supported to be independent including cleaning up after their play. Older children were encouraged to use the toilet independently. Children's nappies were changed regularly, and staff were observed engaging warmly with children when providing this care. There was a designated nap time in the Tiny Tots and Transition units.

Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly.

Staff described how they communicate with parents regarding their child's day at arrival and collection times and parents were observed in the service during these times. Staff described how they record information about each child's day detailing information on food, sleep, nappy changes and activities on a record sheet which is shared with parents.

Care rooms were arranged to provide a range of play materials providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Materials available included small world toys, construction toys, musical instruments, home corners and

rest areas. The care rooms provided developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children. The materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the care rooms. Family photos, children's artwork and children's photos were displayed in the care rooms.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was located to the rear of the premises and had shock absorbent surfacing. The area was divided into two separate play spaces. All children accessed the outdoor area during the course of the inspection.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. The registered provider did not ensure that appropriate and suitable care practices were in place at all times. In the Transition unit, on the second day of inspection, a staff member was observed by the inspector to speak in a raised tone of voice to a child when the child refused to take off their jumper before nap time. The staff member was then observed taking the child by the arm abruptly and telling them to take off their jumper in a raised tone.
2. The registered provider did not ensure there was an adequate provision of food and drinks for some of the children in attendance on the days of inspection. On the first day of inspection in the Transition unit, four children who did not eat dinner at 11:00 were not provided with an alternative meal. On the second day of inspection in the Junior Montessori unit, a child who did not eat their dinner at 11:10 was not offered an alternative meal.

The next scheduled meal in the service was a fruit snack at 13:30. Staff stated that there is no alternative available for children who do not eat dinner.

3. The personal care needs of a child in the Senior Montessori 1 unit were not met in a timely manner. A child was observed with thick mucus coming from their nose. A staff member was observed speaking to the child during dinnertime, but did not clean the child's nose. The child then used the bathroom where another staff member was present, but this staff member, also, did not clean the child's nose.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The interaction observed by the Inspectors is something that I have never observed myself, and I am in the units often. We promote positive, interactive and gentle approaches to challenging behaviours and take very seriously the notion that there was an interaction with a child that involved raised tone of voice and taking the arm abruptly. This particular member of staff has been gently reminded about this and all staff in the Transition Unit have re-read the policy on Behaviour Management. Unit Heads are modelling correct approaches to interactions with children in order to help all staff improve their communication with children. This was an isolated incident, which we take very seriously, the staff member in question is being observed and we have also told all staff that if they are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, to address this issue with Management so that we can make sure that the children are not experiencing the effects of this.
2. After inspection, a review of the menus and mealtimes was done and a new menu and mealtime routine has been implemented in all Units. In addition, the staff are all informed that the chef will always have spare food and is happy to prepare an alternative meal if there is a child that will not eat the meal initially prepared. This has always been the case in this service, I understand staff stated that there is no alternative at the time of inspection but the chef is flexible and happy to prepare alternatives and we have a full fridge and pantry to provide extensive alternatives if necessary. The new implemented menu is still flexible and will remain under review so that if necessary, changes can be made again to ensure that all children are fed sufficient meals everyday.
3. All Staff have re-read the Infection Control Policy in order to be reminded of the importance of the care of the children's physical needs and the importance of prompt cleanliness with the children. In addition, Staff have been reminded in the Staff Memo about the importance of meeting the personal care needs of children in a prompt manner. Staff are aware of the importance of meeting the children's personal care needs and observations are being done daily (management and office admin) to ensure that this is the case.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Appropriate rest facilities were provided for all children under 2 years who were sleeping on floor beds in the Tiny Tots unit. The beds available were fitted with firm, flat, waterproof and breathable mattresses.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

Children in the Junior Montessori room who required a nap were not provided with appropriate rest facilities. On the first day of inspection two children, aged 2 years, were observed to be asleep in the relaxation area. One child was asleep in a staff member's arms and a second child was asleep on a mat on the ground. Other children were observed climbing on and falling over the child who was sleeping on the floor. A staff member lifted this child up and moved them to the floor in the corner of the room resulting in the child waking up. On the second day of inspection, one child was observed to be asleep on a mat on the ground.

There were no suitable beds available for children who required a nap and staff stated that children who require a nap usually sleep directly on the floor.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The sleep facilities have been reviewed in Junior Montessori. They now have appropriate sleep mats and staff now have a supervised sleep routine in place for the sleeping children in the Unit.

As the new routine is in place already and will be continually monitored, we foresee no future issues with the rest facilities for the children in this unit. A sufficient amount of sleeping mats have been purchased to ensure that all children who need or want to sleep can be accommodated. Safe sleeping distances are also being adhered to, with beds staying at 50cm apart.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Non-Compliance Information

1. The two wooden climbing structures in the outdoor area were observed to be unsuitable for use. The laminate covering had worn away in places and the layers of wood had become water damaged. Staff had blocked off access to the play equipment with stackable beds and rocking horses and stated that the play equipment was unsafe for use.
2. Three wheeled toys in the outdoor area observed in use by the children had no back wheels and had not been removed from use.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. New Climbing Structures are being purchased and the Carpenter has told me that he will be able to remove the old structures and assemble the new ones in August (this is the earliest that he is available for this larger job). Management and all staff included now have a designated area for disposal of old and broken equipment until a suitable bin or skip can take it away.
2. All broken toys in the outdoor area have been removed. Risk Assessments done daily in outdoor areas will ensure that broken equipment will be removed promptly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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 by 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 children attending:

General Safety:

- Hand sanitisers, medicines and cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- All storage facilities were inaccessible to children.
- All blind cords were secured.

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing.

- A system was in place for effective sterilisation of soothers.
- Individual bed linen was provided for the children in the Tiny Tots and Transition units. Staff stated that all bed linen is laundered weekly or as required.

Safe Sleep:

- Individual sleep plans were in place for the four children aged 1 year in the Tiny Tots unit who were observed on low beds during the inspection.
- Children in the Tiny Tots unit were physically monitored while sleeping and sleep checks were documented every ten minutes.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

1. Garda vetting was available for one staff member. 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'.

The inspector observed a number of hazards which were considered a safety risk to children as follows;

2. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on 15 April 2024 as the potential risk of unauthorised persons gaining access to the premises was observed during the onsite inspection. Two emergency exit gates and a door at the front of the service were not adequately secured to prevent unauthorised access during the first day of inspection. The registered provider submitted a response on 16 April 2024 which was deemed to satisfactorily address this non-compliance.
3. On the second day of inspection in the Transition unit, the dinner served to children was a beef stir fry. The meal was observed to contain large pieces of vegetable and meat. The inspector observed a child beginning to choke on a piece of food and a staff member was required to administer first aid by patting the child firmly on the back to get the piece of food back up.
4. The registered provider did not ensure that the temperature of uncovered radiators which were accessible to children were maintained below 50°C at all times posing a risk of injury to children. Temperatures recorded on inspection were as follows:

a. **Sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori Unit**

Day 1: 57.7°C

Day 2: 60.5°C

b. **Senior Montessori 1 Unit – Gym Room**

Day 1: 56.1°C

Day 2: 56.8°C

c. **Senior Montessori 1 Unit – Art Room**

Day 1: 52.4°C

d. **Senior Montessori 1 Unit - Work Room 1**

Day 2: 52.4°C

e. **Junior Montessori Unit**

Day 2: 56.7°C

5. A number of potential hazards posing a risk of injury to children were observed in the sleep room used by the Transition unit where children were observed to be sleeping, unsupervised, on both days of inspection:

- a. A wooden, toy kitchen with a broken leg which had been removed from the care room was observed in the sleep room used by the Transition unit. A child was observed sleeping on a low stackable bed beside this broken equipment.
- b. A number of folded cots and floor beds were observed stacked on top of each other at one end of the room. Children were observed sleeping beside this equipment.
- c. Trailing cables from a stereo and an electronic thermometer were observed hanging from a shelf in the sleep room posing a risk of injury.

6. A trailing cable from an electronic thermometer were observed hanging from a shelf in reach of the children in the Transition unit posing a risk of injury.

7. A foam bumper on a section of corner wall in the Transition unit was torn and had a number of holes in it posing a risk of choking to the children.

8. In the outdoor area, a part of the wooden window frame of the Pavillion was observed to be water damaged and a piece of wood had come away leaving a nail exposed posing a risk of injury to children.
9. A piece of wood on one of the wooden storage structures in the outdoor area was observed to be coming away from the main structure and a number of nails were exposed posing a risk of injury to children.
10. In the outdoor area, a section of the all-weather rubber matting was observed to be broken and coming away from the ground posing a potential risk of injury to the children.
11. Two black plastic bags were observed taped to a window in the Junior Montessori unit as there was no blind on the window posing a choking risk to children if they came loose from the window.

Infection Control:

Inspectors observed a number of practices which posed a risk of transmission of infection within the service:

12. Some nappy changing practices observed during the inspection were inadequate for infection control purposes and at variance with the service's nappy changing procedure. Children's hands were not washed following nappy changes and a staff member did not wash their hands between nappy changes. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 October 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
13. The handwashing practices observed were inconsistent during the inspection and at variance with the policy in place in the service as follows:
 - Adult's hands were not consistently washed after cleaning children's noses. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 October 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
 - Children in the Senior Montessori 1 unit did not wash their hands following outdoor play on the first day of inspection.
 - Children in the Junior Montessori unit who went to the toilet independently did not wash their hands.

14. The blue paper towel for hand drying was not stored in dispensers in the nappy changing area in use by the Tiny Tots unit, or in the sanitary areas used by the Transition and Junior Montessori units. There was no paper towel in the dispenser in the nappy changing area in use by the Tiny Tots unit. This non-compliance was present on the last inspection on 24 October 2023. The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider did not prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.
15. Toilet paper was not stored on a toilet roll holder in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit and in the sanitary area adjacent to the Tiny Tots unit.
16. The beds in use in the Transition unit were not placed 50cm apart during the designated sleep time posing a risk of the transmission of infection.
17. A sticky residue was observed on floors in Senior Montessori 1 and the Junior Montessori unit which could not be effectively cleaned.

Administration of Medication:

18. Emergency medicine for a child in the Senior Montessori 1 unit was not stored in its original packaging contrary to the service's administration of medication policy.

Safe Sleep:

19. Sleep checks were not carried out on a child who was observed sleeping in the Junior Montessori unit on both days of inspection. Staff stated they do not record 10 minute sleep checks for this child and there were no sleep check records available in the room.

Fire Safety:

20. A fire escape route to the side of the building was blocked with a sign and a number of planks of wood were observed to be stored in the area on the second day of inspection, posing a risk to the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of a fire.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Renewal of said Garda Vetting has been acquired. Our New Staff Document Checklist now states that all garda vetting needs to be in date within 3 years.

2. Evidence submitted as per immediate action notice. New Side Door has been fitted to ensure that this door now closes automatically after use to prevent unauthorised access. Risk assessments are done daily in all rooms and outdoor spaces.
3. This particular dish has been removed from our menu permanently. Menus have been reviewed for appropriateness and adapted to ensure safety for the children. This has been rectified with new menus and the Chef will reassess any dinners or food that is not popular and change the menu accordingly.
4. All radiators mentioned here have now been covered to ensure further safety for children. All radiators now covered with permanent covers so children cannot access the heat directly.
5. a,b,c – The cables have been secured, the stored equipment has been removed and the sleep area is now free of obstructions and danger. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards. Children are now supervised for all sleep.
6. This thermometer has now been moved so that the cable is no longer visible or a danger. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards.
7. The foam bumper has been replaced. The Painter is booked to come and clean up the areas where paint is chipped here. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards.
8. Window frame has been fixed and no exposed nails remain for safety of children playing in the garden. Risk assessments of all equipment indoors and outdoors are completed daily and all staff are now aware of reporting any minor or major breakages or danger observed in the school.
9. This has been fixed by the Carpenter. Risk assessments are done daily in all rooms and outdoor spaces.
10. The Carpenter will replace the floor of the garden when the larger climbing frames are being replaced – This has been agreed for August as this is the soonest that the Carpenter is free to do this larger job. Works due for completion in August when all children’s climbing frames will be replaced.

11. There has been a blind fitted in place of the plastic bags previously in place. Appropriate coverings that are safe and within regulation will be used in future when the room is needing darkening.

Infection Control:

12. Staff have re-read Nappy Changing Policy and Unit Heads in Tiny Tots, Transition and Junior have observed each staff member changing a nappy from start to finish to ensure that practices are in line with policy. Staff will review policies on an ongoing basis – in order to be reminded of correct practices. Policies are available in the office at all times for staff that need to read or be reminded of safe practice.

13. Handwashing practices have been improved as staff have been reminded about the importance. In addition, Infection control policy has been re-read and signed off by all staff. Children in Senior 1 are now washing hands following outdoor play and it is stated in their daily routine. Staff will review policies on an ongoing basis – in order to be reminded of correct practices. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards. Policies are available in the office at all times for staff that need to read or be reminded of safe practice.

14. Blue Paper towel is not used for drying hands. It is now being stored in a cupboard and is only used for cleaning purposes. All dispensers for paper towels are checked twice daily by staff in units. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards. Policies are available in the office at all times for staff that need to read or be reminded of safe practice.

15. Toilet Roll Holders have been fixed into every cubicle. Daily Risk Checklists are done in each room to address ongoing potential hazards. Policies are available in the office at all times for staff that need to read or be reminded of safe practice.

16. Beds are now laid out with sufficient space between each bed in line with regulation. All Staff are aware of regulation spaces between beds. Supervised Sleep Chart in place which addresses future issues with regulation spacing.

17. Sticky Residue has been removed in both places. Cleaning of Units and risk checklists will address future occurrences of this kind of dirt.

Administration of Medication:

18. Medicine is now in original packaging from Pharmacy with all details displayed on the box with instructions, name and date and stored clearly with label. Unit Heads check medicine containers regularly as part of duties. Staff are now trained in the correct display, storage and usage of all medications for children in addition to children with specialised care plans.

Safe Sleep:

19. Sleep is now observed in line with Sleep Policy – there is a staff member in the room at all times in Junior Montessori and sleep checks are completed. This has been rectified with Supervised sleep chart.

Fire Safety:

20. This fire escape route is now completely cleared. Risk assessments are done daily in all rooms and outdoor spaces.

Supporting documentation submitted

General Safety:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Infection Control:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Administration of Medication:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Safe Sleep:

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Fire Safety:

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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) A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the service.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and 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 available detailing monthly fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill had been recorded as undertaken on the 12 March 2024.

(b) The number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises was available. The maintenance records for the fire fighting equipment were dated 19 April 2023 and 15 January 2024 for the smoke alarms.

(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 VI - Safety

Regulation 27 – Supervision

A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.

Non-Compliance Information

The supervision of sleeping children in the Transition unit was inadequate and posed a risk to the safety and wellbeing of the children in attendance and was contrary to the service’s policy on safe sleep.

On the first day of inspection, two children who were sleeping on low level beds were observed unsupervised and alone. On the second day of inspection, three children who were sleeping on low level beds were observed unsupervised and alone. Staff stated that as children begin to wake up they take them to the care room and leave children who are still sleeping unsupervised. This room also contained a number of potential hazards to children detailed under regulation 23.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

All sleeping children are now supervised at all times. Hazards have been removed. There is now one staff member in sleep room at all times during sleep time. All staff are aware of regulations and policies regarding supervised sleep and all units with sleeping children are utilising correct safe sleep practices. Staff Rosters and duties allow for one member of staff to be in the sleep room at sleep times for all children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.

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*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

Compliance Information

(c) The nappy changing area and the sanitary area adjacent to the Tiny Tots unit appeared to be adequately ventilated.

Non-Compliance Information

- (c)
1. The room temperature was not maintained between 18° to 22°C in the Junior Montessori unit on the second day of inspection. The temperature was recorded at 23.8° at 11:51.
- (d)
- The cleaning schedule for the service was documented as being carried out; however, areas of the service were observed to have an accumulation of dust and debris, were soiled and required a deep clean as follows;
2. A build-up of dirt and dust was observed on areas of the flooring and skirting boards throughout the service.
 3. A build-up of dust was observed on the tiled wall in the sanitary area in the Junior Montessori unit.
 4. The tiles around the toilets in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit were observed to have a build-up of dirt around the base of the toilets.

Areas of the service were observed to require maintenance and repair as follows;

5. Sections of skirting board were missing in the Tiny Tots and Senior Montessori 1 units.
6. In the outdoor area, the door of the Pavillion was observed to be water damaged. Holes were observed in the door and the wood was observed to be peeling away and split.
7. Areas of the woodwork on the Pavillion and two wooden rooms in the garden were observed to be water damaged and paint was observed to be peeling away.
8. Gaps were observed in the floor boards in the Tiny Tots and Senior Montessori 1 units.
9. An uncovered radiator in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit was observed to be rusty.
10. A toilet brush holder in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit was observed to be full of water which was leaking from the pipe connected to the toilet cistern.
11. Three plastic trays were observed under the sinks used by children in the sanitary area adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit and one plastic tray was observed under a sink used by children in the sanitary area adjacent to the Tiny Tots unit. These trays were observed with water inside which was dripping from the pipes connected to the sinks. The manager confirmed that they were aware of these leaks.

(e)

12. The registered provider did not ensure that the privacy and dignity of each child was respected at all times. The sanitary area located adjacent to the Tiny Tots unit and the sanitary area located adjacent to the Junior Montessori unit did not afford the children privacy when using the toilet. Each area had three toilets with small partitions that did not afford privacy and none of these partitions had doors.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(c)

1. Room temperature is now checked during supervised sleep time in this room to ensure temperature is maintained at safe and regulation levels at all times. Monthly Supervision Sleep Chart has a checklist for recording temperature during sleep to ensure ongoing safe temperatures. Sleep Chart now details necessary actions to take if the temperature is too high in the room. This is detailed on the sleep chart with an asterisk so staff in the room will have access to the corrective actions needed. Staff are now aware of necessary actions to take if the room is too warm (above 20 degrees) and can refer to the sleep chart for how to take action.

(d)

2. – 4. Cleaner's hours have been extended daily – discussion around additional cleaning duties for cleaner focused on dust and dirt in all rooms and communal spaces. All areas mentioned in 1-4 have been cleaned and will be cleaned on a weekly basis. Regular extended cleaning hours for cleaner as evidence of preventive action for keeping premises free of dirt and dust build up.
5. Carpentry maintenance has been done on all areas in need of skirting boards and beading. All areas of building will be observed using risk checklists both for indoors and outdoors to ensure that ongoing maintenance work is done promptly.
6. New doors are being made for the Pavilion. They have to be custom made so are still in production but due to be fitted by June 7th at the latest. All areas of building will be observed using risk checklists both for indoors and outdoors to ensure that ongoing maintenance work is done promptly.
7. Painter is due to come this weekend (1st June) to carry out multiple painting jobs. All areas of building will be observed using risk checklists both for indoors and outdoors to ensure that ongoing maintenance work is done promptly.
8. Repair works to floorboards have been carried out where necessary. Repair works are ongoing. We are keeping up with repair works when possible and in order to ensure safety and infection control for children.
9. Radiator now covered. All areas of building will be observed using risk checklists both for indoors and outdoors to ensure that ongoing maintenance work is done promptly.
10. – 11. Plumber has come and fixed both leaks observed during inspection. All areas of building will be observed using risk checklists both for indoors and outdoors to ensure that ongoing maintenance work is done promptly.

(e)

12. Cubicles have been built around every toilet with doors and walls of appropriate height in both downstairs and upstairs children's toilets. Further awareness for the privacy and dignity of the children will be observed by all staff and provider to ensure that the facilities are appropriate and provide for the children correctly.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written and photographic evidence was presented to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance. These actions will be assessed on the next inspection.