

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015FL022
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Bambi's Land Montessori & ASD Play school
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	2 Colman Crescent, Lusk Village, Lusk, Co. Dublin
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<b>Eircode:</b>	K45 FK15
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Claudia Fitzpatrick
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	15/01/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	n/a
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	180-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co Dublin K67 Y5C6
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	AM Coyle & Y Kelly
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

	<p><b>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</b></p> <p><b>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015FL022</b></p>	1 of 12
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Bambi's Land Montessori and ASD Playschool is a privately owned early years service located in the registered providers home in a residential area in Lusk, Co Dublin. The service provides part time care and education to children aged 2 years to 6 years operating from 8:30am to 12:45pm Monday to Friday. There are 2 care rooms in the service namely the Montessori room and the ASD room. Pre-school children with autism spectrum disorder who are accommodated in the ASD room are cared for by teaching staff funded through the Department of Education home tuition grant. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the service.

### Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children attending the service and employs an additional 9 staff members including a nutritionist and a board-certified behaviour analyst.

### 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.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15 – record of pre-school child

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 registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider was the designated person in charge of the service and there was a named person available to deputise as required.

(b) The registered provider was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced on the morning of the inspection.

Ten staff files were reviewed including the file for the registered provider and nine staff members. Nine staff members work directly with the children attending the service.

(2)(a)(b) Two written references were available for the registered provider and a total of 17 validated written references were available for the 9 staff members employed in the service.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider and 9 staff members. The Garda vetting records reviewed demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) International police vetting was available for 4 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that nine staff members whose files were reviewed and who work directly with children in the service each held appropriate childcare qualifications on the National Framework of Qualifications, or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

### Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a)(b) A second validated written reference was not available for 1 staff member.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective Action

(2)(a)(b) Registered provider asked the staff to re-email the second reference to her. The reference is verified and attached to file.

#### Preventive Action

Registered provider will be more attentive with staff documents.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Documented evidence was provided.

### Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 9 – Management and recruitment has been reviewed and accepted.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,*

### Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Montessori room there were 12 children aged 3 years 10 months to 4 year 10 months being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the ASD room there were 7 children aged 4 years to 5 years 4 months being cared for by 4 staff members.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times, verified by staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained at the service.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be open to inspection on the premises by-  
(c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

(1) A sampling process was used in relation to the children's records. All of the 8 sampled registration forms were appropriately completed with the required information as specified in sub-sections (a) to (i) in this regulation.

(3) The children's records were available and open for review by the inspector as an authorised person.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

### Compliance Information

(1) (a) The following observations are examples on how each child's learning, development and well-being was observed being facilitated during the inspection:

- There was a warm, welcoming and child centred atmosphere in the service as evidenced in the kind and supportive interactions observed taking place between the adults and the children, the early years practitioners spoke positively and kindly to and about the children throughout the inspection.
- Healthy eating was promoted in the service and the children brought their own lunch and drinks with them to the service. The early years practitioners sat with the children at lunch time encouraging conversations and extending interactions. Drinking water was available for the children to take throughout the session.
- The close proximity of the sanitary facilities in both care rooms facilitated the children to use the bathroom independently with support and supervision provided as needed. The children were gently reminded and supported to wash their hands afterwards.
- A rest area was available in the Montessori room which enabled the children to take a break from activities as they chose throughout the session. Floor mats were available in the ASD room for the children to use for rest purposes as they needed.
- The practitioners were observed displaying anticipation and positive responsiveness when children experienced challenges in the environment or chose to change or opt out of activities.
- All of the children were afforded an opportunity to spend time in the outdoor area on the day of inspection and were dressed appropriately prior to going outside.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- In both care rooms the early years practitioners demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs and, for some children their additional needs and their likes and preferences which fostered each child's inclusion and involvement in activities.
- Transitions were well supported in the service. Throughout the session timers and verbal strategies were used by the staff members to inform and prepare children for up-coming activities and movement. A

pictorial display of the daily routine and activities was on display at the children’s eye level in both the Montessori room and ASD room to support the children to prepare for transitions.

- In the ASD room communication with the children was enhanced through the use of Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) which was observed to support the children in participating in activities throughout the session. Individual care plans were available for all of the children in attendance in the ASD room.
- Parents were provided with the opportunity to exchange information about their children informally with the staff members at drop off and collection times. Additionally the service communicates regularly with parents via e mail and a messaging service.

### Physical and material environment:

- The materials available for the children were available on low level shelving and stored in containers which the children were able to use. Tabletop materials including jigsaws and threading to support fine motor development were provided along with transportation toys to include trains and cars, small world toys such as animals and ships and dolls and dress up for dramatic and imaginary play. The provision of bricks and blocks facilitated the children to engage in construction activities and the availability of art materials supported the children’s creativity and mark making.
- A range of books were provided in both of the care rooms to support the children’s language development. The book corner in the Montessori room offered a space for children to relax and provided opportunities for storytelling and early literacy experiences. The practitioners were observed reading a story to a group of children and children who preferred to, read books individually
- In the Montessori room the practitioners facilitated a science experiment in small groups of children using food colouring, bread soda and vinegar, practitioners discussed these using questions such as “What happens when you mix bread soda and vinegar?” and children described their experiences. Children were observed weighing blocks in a weighing scales and practitioners discussed early numeracy concepts with the children such as “which is heavier?”
- The children’s artwork was exhibited on the walls in both care rooms, this supports the children’s wellbeing by feeling valued and appreciated.
- An outdoor area located to the rear of the service was available to the children. The area was covered with artificial grass, a slide, a dome climber and a low sized rocker along with ride on toys were provided.

Additionally, an enclosed area with a range of play resources including sensory play materials, a home area and tabletop materials allowed for the children to enjoy time outside regardless of the weather.

### 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:

- External doors of the preschool service were appropriately secured to prevent an unauthorised person from gaining access to the children and prevent children from exiting the premises unsupervised.
- The service's designated emergency exits were unobstructed.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- The equipment, play materials and facilities were in a clean and hygienic condition.
- The children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet.

##### Administration of Medication:

- There were forms available to record the details of any medication administered to a child in the service, should the need arise. No child required medication to be administered on the day of inspection.

##### Fire Safety:

- The fire exits were clearly signposted and were unobstructed.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. The children's packed lunches, supplied from home, were not refrigerated on arrival to the service which increased the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.
2. The water in the sanitary accommodation used by the children attending the Montessori room was cold, cold water does not support effective hand hygiene.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective Action

##### Infection Control:

1. Staff put all lunch boxes in the fridge.

- Registered provider fixed both thermostats in the school and bathroom too.

### Preventive Action

#### **Infection Control:**

- Always in the morning at the arrival time staff will put lunch boxes in the fridge.
- Staff will keep record of the thermostats daily.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### **Infection Control:**

Photographic and documented evidence was provided.

### **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has been reviewed and accepted.

## 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) Two staff members held in-date First Aid Response (FAR) training. Based on a review of the staff members' training records and the service's staff roster, it was evident that the registered provider ensured that a person with FAR training was at all times immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

## 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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. The most recent fire drill recorded as having taken place on 20/12/2024.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced in September 2024 and the smoke alarms were serviced on the 06/09/24.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

## Part VI – Safety

### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available to demonstrate the service was adequately insured. The service is currently insured to accommodate 28 part time preschool children with an expiry date 27/03/2025.