

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015FL140 |
|--------------------------|-------------|

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Kindle Montessori |
|-------------------------|-------------------|

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 7 Pinebrook Vale, Clonsilla, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin |
|----------------------------|--|

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| <b>Eircode:</b> | D15 RR74 |
|-----------------|----------|

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Lidia Wright |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
|----------------------|-----------|

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 24/10/2024 |
|----------------------------|------------|

|                                   |    |   |    |                 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|-----------------|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 5 | PM | Not applicable. |
|-----------------------------------|----|---|----|-----------------|

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b> | Early Years Inspectorate,<br>Child and Family Agency,<br>Unit 4&5 Nexus Building Block 6A, Blanchardstown Corporate Park,<br>Dublin 15 |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>                | Á Dunne  |
| <b>Title:</b>                                   | Early Years Inspector  |

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Conditions if applicable</b> | Not applicable. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|

### Description of service

Kindle Montessori established in 2010, is a sessional only service. This service is located in the registered providers residential dwelling. There is one care room to the back of the residence with a sanitary facility off the care room in the hall. The service has access to an outdoor area in the back garden of the service. The service caters for children aged 2 to 6 years, Monday to Friday, from 9.30am to 12.30pm, September to June.

### Staffing

The registered provider works in the service and operates the service single-handedly. On the day of inspection, the registered provider was not present and a relief staff member familiar with the service was present to care for the children.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities.

Regulation 28 Insurance.

However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 19 Health, Welfare and Development of Child (1) (b) and Regulation 27 Supervision.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child.

As a result, the scope of the inspection included the one room of the service.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the relief staff person and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(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

The files of two adults were reviewed as part of the inspection, to include the registered provider who works in the service and one relief staff member and the garda vetting disclosures of two adults were reviewed.

(2)(a)(b) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that two written and validated references were available in relation to the one adult employed.

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

(d) Police vetting was not required for the two adults as they had not lived outside of the state for a period of more than 6 months as an adult.

(4) Documentation was available to show that the two adults who worked directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed eligible by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

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

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(3) On the day of inspection, there was one adult working with 5 children, aged 2 years 8 months to 5 years old, from 9.30am to 12.30am for the morning session, with ratios being maintained.

### 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.*

### Non - Compliance Information

(1)(b) The children were not observed to access outdoor play on the day of the inspection.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b) The registered provider to recommend to the relief teacher that they bring the children outside. There are designated outdoor toys and shelving, and a table for outdoor work, alongside a slide and sandpit. This shows that the children spend a lot of time outdoors. The children will continue to enjoy their time in the garden as much as possible.

### Supporting documentation submitted

(1)(b) No evidence submitted

### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 19, the non-compliance outlined above, has been addressed.

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- The room was bright and an inviting play space to enable children to explore their environment, with play materials stored low level accessible shelves which promoted independence of choice for selection of materials.
- The range of play materials and equipment to include a large variety of Montessori materials were suitable to the age and stage of development of the children attending the service enabling exploration and assisted children develop their play opportunities.
- The furniture provided in each care room was low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children. There were sufficient number of low tables and chairs to accommodate children whilst they played and ate in the care room.
- A cosy chair with books were present for rest and relaxation.
- The outdoor area was enclosed securely and consisted of a soft artificial surface, with loose stones and provided a space for children to participate in outdoor play activities.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- The entrance to the service was secure with a locked door and locked gate for access on the inspector's arrival, preventing a child from exiting the building unsupervised and an unauthorised adult from entering.
- Emergency exits in the service were clear and unobstructed.
- The kitchen area was not accessible to the preschool children during the operation of the service.
- Attendance records were present, accurate and completed for children, the registered provider and the relief staff member.
- The play equipment and materials observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good working order.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 21.4°C at 10.52am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18-22°C.

##### Infection Control:

- The premises and equipment were visually clean.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### Infection Control:

1. Perishable food items such as cold meats, cheese, yogurts and yogurt drinks consumed by the children were not refrigerated on arrival to the service. This increased the potential risk of food borne infection. This was a previous non-compliance on the last inspection in 2022.
2. An open basket bin in the sanitary facility under the stairs contained used cloth handtowels and one used cloth hand towel was present on the wash hand basin, leading to poor infection control.
3. Handwashing in the service was not in line with best practice and the service policy and was not sufficient to prevent the spread of infection for example before lunch a staff member was observed to clean the hands of the children with hand sanitiser. Warm water and soap are required for effective handwashing to prevent the spread of infection.

## Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### Infection Control:

1. There is a designated container in the fridge for all perishable items to be placed. To facilitate this, the registered provider has asked the children's parents to separate their child's lunch and put perishable items into a plastic bag. On the day in question the class was taken by the relief teacher, and they did refrigerate a lunch that was separated into a plastic bag. However, the inspector noted that there were perishable items of food in some of the other four children's lunch boxes. The registered provider reminded the parents to separate the perishable items into plastic bags separate to the child's bulky lunch boxes, as it is noted that not all parents have continued to do this, after it was requested in September.

The registered provider has reminded parents to separate perishable items into named plastic bags that can be easily sourced and removed from the children's bags and placed into the designated container in the fridge.

2. A pedal operated lidded bin for the single use cloth hand towels has been purchased. The children are reminded daily to place their used hand towel into the pedal closed top bin after use, and not leave them on the sink.
3. The children's hands will be washed with warm water and soap before lunch time.

### Supporting documentation submitted

#### Infection Control:

1. Photographic evidence.
2. Photographic evidence.
3. No Evidence

## Summary Comment

The non-compliances outlined above, under Regulation 23, have been addressed.

## 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

(2) (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the service and in the event of an emergency was available to the children in the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(1) On the day of inspection, there was no adult available to the children with valid First Aid Responder training.

While it is acknowledged that the registered provider had valid First Aid Responder training, a person must be trained with First Aid Responder training and available to children at all times to include cover of breaks, leave and appointments.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

(1) The relief teacher has trained in First Aid Response on 25 November 2024.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

(1) Photographic Evidence

#### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 25, the non-compliance outlined above has been addressed.

## 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 of fire drills was available on the premises with the last drill dated as having been carried out on the 1 October 2024.
  - (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms were last serviced in November 2023.
  - (4) Fire evacuation procedures were displayed on the side of the fridge in the care room.

## 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

1. Four children were not supervised adequately between 12.22pm and 12.24pm, when the relief staff member left the care room with one child to go to open the service entrance gate and left four children in the care room alone. Children should be supervised at all times by staff to ensure their safety is maintained.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

1. The registered provider has instructed the relief teacher to bring the whole class with them when going outside to open the side gate. As a sole provider except in rare circumstances, the registered provider usually brings the children outside to the garden to play directly before home time, so they are not left in the classroom when the registered provider opens the gate, they are outside with them.

#### Summary Comment

Under Regulation 27, the non-compliance outlined above has been addressed.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

Evidence of insurance cover was available to demonstrate there was cover for a maximum of 11 children of the service morning with an expiry date of 27 March 2025.