

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b> | TU2015FL159 |
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| <b>Name of Service:</b> | Little Bud's Montessori |
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| <b>Address of Service:</b> | 48 The Grove, Hunters Run, Clonee, Dublin 15, Co. Dublin |
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| <b>Eircode:</b> | D15 HP46 |
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| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b> | Louise Dietz |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|

|                      |           |
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| <b>Service type:</b> | Sessional |
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| <b>Date of Inspection:</b> | 04/10/2024 |
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|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|--|
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b> | AM | 10 | PM |  |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|--|

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| <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   |  |
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| 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). |  |

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

Little Bud's Montessori Preschool is a privately run sessional service. The service is located in a purpose-built building to the rear of the registered providers residential dwelling. There is one large care room with a sanitary facility off the care room. 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 9am to 12pm, September to June.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection, the registered provider was present to care for the children. The service operates single-handedly. In the event of an emergency, a second person familiar with the service is available.

### 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. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations as follows:

Regulation 9 Management and recruitment (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4)

Regulation 11 Staffing Levels (1)(8)(b)

Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child

Regulation 25 First Aid

Regulation 26 Fire Safety

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child. The scope of the inspection was the morning session 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 registered provider and the 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

(2) Two staff files were reviewed and the following was available.

(a)(b) The registered provider had two written references and ensured that two validated written references were available for the emergency contact person.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for both the registered provider and the emergency contact person.

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 as registered provider and the emergency contact person had not lived outside of the jurisdiction for a for a period of more than 6 consecutive months as an adult.

(4) The registered provider held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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.*

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

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider was the designated person in charge and was available upon the inspector's arrival and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.
- (3) The correct adult /child ratio was maintained in the service throughout the inspection. There was one adult from 9am until 12.00pm working directly with the ten children present in the service.
- (8)(c) A second person who is familiar with the operation of the service is available to provide assistance to the registered provider at all times and was located within close distance of the service and is available to attend in the event of an emergency.

## 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 of the service was designed with the age and stage of development of the children having been taken into consideration.
- The classroom was bright and laid out in a variety of designated areas of interest for the children with activities including; Home corners (play kitchens with play food and supporting equipment, cash register and shopping trolley, dolls, dolls bath, hairdressing equipment, doctor sets), Small world play ( farm with small people and animals and furniture, fire station with supporting equipment , diggers, trains, tracks, trucks and cars), construction (building blocks, magnetics, plastic bricks, jigsaws, wooden puzzles), art materials (stencils, crayons, pencils, and paper) and a cosy area with soft mats and cushions with books for rest and relaxation was present.
- The tables and chairs provided for meals and tabletop activities were low level and suitable to the needs and age of the children.
- The children engaged in outdoor play during the morning session while under the supervision of the registered provider. The area was equipped playhouses, seesaw, ride in cars, ride on motor bikes, stepping stones with balance beams, soft mats with trains with tracks, balance bikes, scooters, dolls with buggies, a basketball net with ball, a playhouse, sand with supporting equipment.

### 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:

- On arrival to the service, the inspector observed, the entrance gate was secure.
- Attendance records were present, completed and accurate.
- The play equipment and materials in use by the children on the day of inspection were safe and in good condition.
- The temperature of the care room was recorded as 22°C at 10.08am, within the recommended ambient temperature of 18 - 22 °C.

##### Infection Control:

- The service was visually clean with cleaning records completed and available.
- Handwashing facilities for hand hygiene included warm water, liquid soap, and paper towels.
- Handwashing was completed before lunch and after toilet visits.
- Pedal operated lidded bins were available for waste disposal.
- Adequate ventilation was available in the care room by means of openable windows and doors.
- Children's lunches which are brought from home were stored in a fridge in the care room to prevent spoiling of perishable items.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 25 - First aid

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a person trained in first aid for children is, at all times, immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that a suitably equipped first aid box for children-*

*(a) is safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises, and*

*(b) is available to the children attending the pre-school service at all times.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider was trained in first aid response and was available on the premises at all times.
- (a) (b) A first aid box was stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position in the care room of the service and was available to the children in the service at all times.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
  - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

### Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A written record was reviewed by the inspector for fire drills completed and the last fire drill was recorded as being carried out on the 27 September 2024.
- (b) The number type and maintenance record for the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available demonstrating they were last serviced in September 2024.
- (4) The fire drill procedure was displayed on the wall of the care room and observed by the Inspector.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

### Compliance Information

The insurance certificate reviewed demonstrated that the service was insured for a maximum of 11 children per session with with an expiry date of 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.