

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY002
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Learner's Montessori School
-------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Garryard, Killimor, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
----------------------------	---

<b>Eircode:</b>	H53 AH02
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Ann Fahy
-------------------------------------	----------

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

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	18/02/2026
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	No.
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Child and Family Agency, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	F Kelly.
<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

This privately operated pre-school is in a detached building in a housing development in the village of Killimor, Co Galway. The pre-school offers sessional care from 09:30 to 12:30. The pre-school caters for children aged between 3 and 6 years. The service caters for a maximum number of 22 pre-school children at any one time. The service consists of one large playroom, kitchen area and sanitary areas. There was a secure outdoor play area to the rear of the premises with direct access from the playroom.

### Staffing

The registered provider was the person in charge and there was a named deputy person in charge. There were three staff including the registered provider present on the day of 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 announced and focused on the area of governance, health, welfare and development of child, safety and premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

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, 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.*

*(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) One of the registered providers was the designated person in charge and there was a named person who was able to deputise as required.

(b) During the period of inspection one of the registered providers was on the premises.

Following a review of the service files and discussion with the registered provider, it was confirmed that there were three members of staff employed in the service.

These files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(2)(a) Of the six required written and appropriately validated references, three of these references were from the staff's most recent employers.

(b) Of the six required written and appropriately validated references, three of these references were reputable sources.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the staff working in the service. The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting disclosures was not required as no adult working in the service that had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period of over six months.

(4) All the adults working directly with children had obtained an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework. The staff present had obtained awards ranging from level 5 to level 7 on the National Qualification 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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1) During the period of inspection there were adequate numbers of adults working with the pre-school children attending the service. On the morning of the inspection, there were 13 pre-school children attending the morning session
- (3) At 10.00 on the day of inspection, the following playroom was in operation.
- Playroom- there were 3 adults caring for 13 children aged between 3 and 4 years of age.

### 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 registered provider had ensured that there was an adequate supply of equipment and materials available to the children attending the service.

The equipment and materials available facilitated all types of play and learning.

- The play area was designed to provide different experiences for the children. The playroom was bright and well laid out with a variety of distinct interest areas. Wall spaces were effectively used to display photographs of the children and their families, art works and posters relating to the current curricular plan.
- The service used play equipment in the role-playing areas that were familiar to the children such as real pots, pans, kettles which encourages the children to share experiences from home.

- All of the play and educational resources were accessible to children on open shelving at their height. The children were observed on various occasions taking toys and puzzles off the shelves playing with them and before playing with a different toy or puzzle they returned the first toy to where they got it without any prompts or direction from the staff members.

Type of play and toy, equipment available:

**Sensory play:** Sand tables available with various sieves, buckets, shovels and construction toys.

**Imaginative play:** Large selection of dress up costumes with accessories, (hats, bags, capes, etc). Play kitchen with real size accessories, dolls house with prams, doll dress up clothes. Transport toys with numerous cars, trucks with traffic mat and garages. Farm machinery with farm sheds and animals.

**Construction Play:** Large selection of building blocks of various sizes and various textures.

**Arts and Craft /Creative play:** Dedicated table with the selection of non-toxic paints, crayons, paper and aprons available to the children at all times during the session.

**Small world:** Large selection of miniature figures, toys and buildings for children to use in role playing and imaginative play.

**Physical Play:** Dancing, jumping and running both indoors and in the outdoor area.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

*(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*

#### Compliance Information

- Each child attending the service was checked in and out by either the registered provider or a staff member. A record of each child's attendance, detailing the arrival and departure time of each child and

the name of the person that dropped off and collected the child was maintained daily. This record was available for inspection.

3 (a)

A register of people entering the premises other than those outlined above in (3) (a) was available for inspection.

The following information was recorded for each person as outlined above.

- The date
- The person's name
- Their contact details
- The reason for entry
- Arrival and departure time
- The name of the person who approved access.

(b) A daily register of visitors to the service was maintained.

### 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 service provided evidence that one staff member was trained in first aid for children (FAR) and available to the children, attending the early years' service. This staff member was available to the children during the operational hours of the service.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid box was fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.