

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY005		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Abacus Montessori & Creche		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	21 Riverdale, Oranmore, Co. Galway		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 K462		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aideen Cruise		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	28/08/2024		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM 28
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway.		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector.		
<b>Authority to Inspect</b>			
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

Abacus Montessori and Creche Early Years' Service operates in a private residential area in the village of Oranmore, county Galway. The service offers a sessional, part- time and full day care service. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years of age. The service operates a full day care from 7:30 am to 6 pm and a sessional service from 9 am to 12 pm, from Monday to Friday.

### Staffing

There is a manager who was the person in charge and a deputy person in charge. The registered provider does not work daily in the service and the area manager was on site during the inspection. There are 8 adults, working in the service. All 8 staff hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at a Level 5 on the National Qualification Framework work in the service or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education

### 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 and safety. 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 area manager, 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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service.
- (b) The person in charge was on the premises when the early years inspector arrived. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available and rostered on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present.
- All 8 adult files were reviewed:
- (2)(a)&(b) Sixteen written validated references, on file for the fifteen staff were from a past employer or from a source other than the past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 8 adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Three of the staff had worked outside the jurisdiction, for six months or more, while over the age of 18 years of age, and had the required police vetting for that jurisdiction.
- (4) All 8 staff who were working directly with children, all held 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. Copies of qualifications were on file for the 8 adults.

### 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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(2) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff roster indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to.

On the morning and afternoon of the inspection, there were 28 pre-school children

- 4 children were aged between 1 to 2 years,
- 5 children were aged between 2 to 3 years,
- 19 children were aged between 3 to 5 years.

There were 7 adults in total working directly with children on the premises the day of inspection.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that there were 2 staff on the premises at all times while the pre-school was operating.

### 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

19(1)(a)

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating is promoted and encouraged in the service including children's, cultural and dietary requirements.
- The children ate their snacks provided by their parents and guardians. On arrival in the morning between 8 am and 9 pm children are offered a choice of cereals, toast or milk for breakfast The 10 am snack consisted of fruit, crackers, cheese and sandwiches and the choice of milk or water.
- At 12 am the hot meal of the day was served and consisted of pasta bolognaise, cheese and milk or water. At 3 pm the snack was bagels with ham and cheese with milk or water.
- Perishable items were stored in the fridge prior to snack time.
- Crockery and plates were offered and used during children's snack and meal times and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.
- Children's own bottles were available and accessible on a drinks table to allow children to self-serve when thirsty in each playroom.
- The adults supervised children's hand washing before and after snack time, outdoor play and after toileting.
- The children who were toilet trained, toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- Children in nappies were changed in a timely manner by adult and were in line with best practice.
- There was a quiet rest area with soft seating, in the playrooms to accommodate children's rest or to opt out of an activity.
- There was a designated sleep room for children under 2 years of age with 3 standard cots. There were 9 stackable beds available for children over 2 years of age. Appropriate clean linen was provided for sleep.
- The service had a multi media application to engage with parents about their child's routine during the day.

- Children were in the process of transitioning in to service and moving playrooms and this was observed to be carried in a caring and supportive way by the adults working in the service.
- Children were observed at circle time, table top activities, playing in the defined interest areas, engaging with adults in the outdoor play area in group activities, imaginary and physical play.

### 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 a person trained in first aid for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. Two adults had current training in FAR and one adult first aid for children.
- (2)(a) There was a first aid box in each playroom, with content items within date, safely stored, easily accessible and stored in a conspicuous position.
- (b) The service demonstrated that the first aid boxes were fully equipped and available to the children attending the pre-school service.

### 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 of the monthly fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill was the 11/07/2024 and documented monthly fire drills were available.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type, and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 06/08/2024.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service on the 06/08/2024.
- (4) Notices were displayed within the service of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire in the premises.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The service had adequate insurance for a full day care for a maximum of 38 preschool children valid until the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.