

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TTUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY067		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Clarinbridge Montessori & Afterschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Scoil Mhuire, Clarinbridge, Co. Galway		
<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 EFP7		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Samantha Geaghan		
<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time		
<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	27/01/2026		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	28	PM 7
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulation Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Co. Galway		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.		
<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
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### Description of service

The service is in Scoil Mhuire National School the village of Clarinbridge Co Galway. The preschool caters for children aged between 2 and 6 years old, from Monday to Friday between 09.00 and 14.00. This preschool service offers the option of part time care service, an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and sessional care programme. This preschool service operates from two prefabricated buildings which has two playrooms, sanitary area and a kitchen. There is a play area to the front of the service with a range of defined interest areas for children.

### Staffing

The registered provider was on the premises on the day. There is a named person in charge and a named designated deputy. On the day of inspection, there were 12 adults which included the registered provider, manager, administrator, cleaner, school age adult and 7 adults working directly with children which included a student. Nine adults hold at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to level 8 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 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, and
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid work.

(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.

(6A) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to an employee of a registered provider where - (a) the registered provider receives funding for the employment of the employee pursuant to a scheme funded by the Minister and known as the Access and Inclusion Model.

#### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The registered provider ensured that there was a designated person in charge and a named person available to deputise.
- (b) The staff roster indicated that both the designated person in charge and deputy was on the premises while the pre-school children were present.
- (c) A management structure was available in the service and staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.

All 12 adult recruitment files were reviewed:

- (2) (a) here were 23 of the required 24 written and validated references from previous employers.
- (b) There was 1 of the required 24 written and validated references from source other than past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for all 12 adults. The service 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 two adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than six months and these were available for inspection.
- (4) There was evidence that nine adults who required a childcare qualification had attained at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 to 8 on the National Framework of qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.
- (6A) There was one adult employed in the service under the Access and Inclusion Model.

### 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) Documentary evidence in the form of attendance records and staff rosters indicated that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.
- (3) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children. There were 7 adults working directly with and caring for 28 pre-school children in the morning and 3 adults caring for 7 preschool children in the afternoon.

### 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 was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The main hot meal of the day was chilli con carne with rice. An alternative was offered as required.
- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Crockery, plates and glasses were given to children during snack times.
- The children had access to a water on a low-level table which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty. Children were observed helping themselves to a glass of water as required.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Hand washing was observed at appropriate times throughout the day, it was observed prior to snack time, after outdoor play and toileting.
- Each child's privacy and dignity were respected while they were either toileted independently or with some assistance as required.
- Nappy changing took place as required throughout the day and the correct nappy changing procedure was observed.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couches in a designated rest and relaxation area in the playrooms.
- Eight stackable beds were available and were used on the day for rest and sleep for children.
- Children were observed at tabletop activities, sensory play, playing in the clearly defined interest areas, arts/crafts, blowing bubbles and in circle time. The children enjoyed outdoors riding tricycles, playing together, dancing to music messy and sensory play.
- The outdoor play area had artificial grass with tunnels, play houses, black boards with chalk, balancing beams and mud kitchens. There were also picnic benches, a sand pit, ride on toys and two storage sheds.

## Programme of Activities

- Curriculum planning was in place to support each child's development.
- At story time and throughout the day adults created an interactive experience for children, allowing them to share their views and observations on stories. In turn this allowed the adults to create spontaneous activities and in turn assist with short term planning.
- Through the programme of activities children had the opportunity to interact in small and large groups. Children were given the opportunity and encouraged by adults to take the lead and engage with their peers.
- Adults created an environment for easy transitions throughout the session. All transitions during the session involved the children, they took an active role in preparing, assisting the adults, taking the lead at snack time and tidying up. This in turn promoted each child's independence and leadership skills.
- The service had a programme of activity and curriculum in place to support the individual needs of each child in line with their age and stage of development.
- Communication with parents is through the multimedia application that the service uses and at drop off/collection times.
- The service had observation charts in place for each child which was kept in their learning journal which in turn assisted with curriculum planning. The children's journal was sent home on a Friday for parents or guardians to review their work for the week and returned on a Monday.
- There was evidence of short-, medium- and long-term planning and the themes of the week were Australia & The Senses. Visual displays were on the walls to assist with the themes and children's artwork.

### 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 service was secured upon arrival and a camera monitor was in place to allow for the safe entry and exit of the children and to prevent unauthorised adults from entering.
- The outdoor areas were secured with fencing and a wall to protect the children within.
- Cleaning agents, mops, brushes and medication were secured out of reach of the children.
- Storage facilities were inaccessible to the children.
- The emergency exits were unobstructed to allow easy exit in the event of an emergency.
- All toys and equipment were maintained in good condition to prevent any safety issues for preschool children.
- All cleaning agents were stored in the kitchen out of reach of children.

##### Infection Control:

- Perishable items belonging to children were stored in the service fridge.
- Anti-bacterial liquid soap, hand paper towels and lidded, lined, pedal operated bins for the disposal of paper waste were provided.
- Children were observed washing their hands before snack times, after toileting, after wiping their nose and after outdoor play.
- The hot water was maintained at a safe temperature of 31.3°C in the children's sanitary area.
- Child friendly handwashing posters were located above the wash hand basins to promote good handwashing practices.
- Individually labelled containers were available where clean linen was stored.
- The nappy changing area was clean, each child's belongings were labelled and a self-sealing leak proof pedal bin was available.
- The correct procedure was observed at nappy changing in line with the service policy. There was a supply of aprons, gloves and anti-bacterial soap for effective hand washing. A self-sealing leak proof pedal bin was available for the disposal of nappies.

### Administration of Medication:

- The medication was stored in the office was in date. The form to be filled out and signed by a parent or guardian was available for inspection and compliant on the multimedia application.
- There were nine adults with first aid responder training. The trained adults were available on the day of inspection to the preschool children.

### Safe Sleep:

- Eight stackable beds were available for sleep and clean bed linen was provided for each one. Soft seating was also available in the playrooms for children to relax and rest during the day.
- Children were put down to sleep if required and physical sleep checks were carried out every 10 minutes. If children did not sleep, structured down time was part of the routine. Soft seating was also provided in the playrooms for children to relax or rest during the day.

### Outing:

- The manager stated that the service had two scheduled outings in the year. These are carried out in line with the service outings policy. This included getting signed permission from a parent or guardian, risk assessments carried out prior to the outing, ensuring that there was adequate insurance for the outing and that the bus was insured and had a valid certificate of roadworthiness. The service ensured there was a first aid responder, first aid box and a car available in the event of an emergency. A critical incident plan was in place. The service also ensured that children were easily identifiable and that regular physical checks were carried out on preschool children during outings.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Infection Control:

- Mildew/mould was observed above the window in the kitchen area and may pose as a risk of cross infection for a preschool child.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**Infection Control:**

The area was sprayed, cleaned down and fresh paint was applied to the area.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**Infection Control:**

A photograph of the repaired area was submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The Early Years Inspector has reviewed the action taken by the registered provider and has deemed that it has met the regulatory requirement of this part of the Regulations.