

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY145
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Rascals Day Nursery & Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Shangort Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 H9T2
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Colette Murphy
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/07/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	42	PM	42
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<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 and E. Friel.
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors.

### 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

This privately own service offers the full day care from 8am to 6pm and an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care programme from 9am to 12pm, Monday to Friday. The service caters for children aged between 1 and 6 years of age. The preschool service is in a purpose-built crèche, located in Knocknacarra in the suburbs of Galway city. There were 6 playrooms in total the Caterpillar room, Bumble Bee room, Ladybird room, Montessori room, Butterflies room and the Rainbows room. Meals are prepared and cooked in the service kitchen and a dining room is available for meals. There is an outdoor play area to the side of the service for children to play, explore and get fresh air.

### Staffing

The registered provider is the person in charge and on the premises daily and there is a named designated deputy. There are a total of 7 adults currently working with the children and a cook in the service kitchen. Seven adults have a recognised childcare qualification at a minimum of a level 5 to 8 in Early Childhood Care 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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 worker.*

*(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.*

*(7) A registered provider shall ensure that all employees, unpaid workers and contractors are appropriately supervised and provided with appropriate information, and where necessary training, including in relation to the following: (a) the policies, procedures and statements of the service specified in Schedule 5;*

### 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.

Since the last inspection on the 27 August 2024, 3 new adults were employed in the service and these files were reviewed and 1 garda vetting renewal for another adult.

(2)(a) There were 4 of the required 6 validated references from previous employers.

(b) The remaining 2 validated references were from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the 3 new adults employed in the service and for the 1 adult requiring a renewal of Garda vetting every 3 years. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew.

(d) International police vetting was available for 3 adults working in the service who had lived in another state for a period longer than 6 months.

(4) There was evidence that 7 of the seven 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 for qualifications or a qualification deemed to be equivalent.

(7)(a) All adults had documented evidence of induction training and that they had signed off on the service policies.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

*A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.*

#### Compliance Information

The following policies, procedures and statements in Schedule 5 were reviewed and met the necessary requirements:

- Recruitment and Induction Policy.
- Child Safeguarding Statement.
- Child Protection Policy.
- Safe Sleep Policy.

## 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 and caring for 42 pre-school children in the morning and 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 snacks were provided by the service and consisted of a selection of sandwiches, wraps and a selection of fruit. The hot meal of the day was chilli beef with rice.
- Crockery and plates were given to children during snack times, laid out on low tables in the playrooms, dining area and in the outdoor play area.
- The children had access to a water station on a low-level table, which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty in the playrooms and the outdoor play areas.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence. This was observed at toileting and encouraging children to wash their hands.
- Children who had their nappy changed were supported in a caring way, by adults who interacted with the children.
- 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.
- The service also had a designated sleeproom with standard cots. The 2 playrooms on the ground floor were converted for sleep purposes after lunchtime.
- The children played a good part of the day in the outdoor area in groups or independently. Children were also engaged in free play, tabletop activities, imaginary play in the household area, making playdough with the adults and in circle time.

#### Non-Compliance Information

19(1)(a)

#### Basic Needs of Children:

Provisions for children's sleep requirements were not observed. At approximately 12:05 pm, a child in the Caterpillar room was displaying signs of tiredness including crying, rubbing their eyes, closing their eyes and

clinging to an adult. Despite the Early Years Inspector advising the adult that the child required sleep the child was not put down until 12:40 pm. Failure to facilitate children to sleep according to their needs may impact negatively on their emotional and cognitive development.

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

The registered provider stated in their response:

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

A meeting was held with all staff where the sleep policy was reviewed and that all children must sleep on demand.

This will be monitored by management going forward

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

Copy of staff training and it signed by all staff.

Updated safe sleep policy.

### Summary Comment

The action taken and documentation submitted has been reviewed by the inspectors and has deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) In date certificates were on file to evidence that 2 adults were trained as First Aid Responders (FAR); the staff roster indicated that these two adults were available during the opening hours of the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that all children were appropriately supervised, when attending the service. On the day of inspection, adults supervised children by both sight and sound to ensure children's safety. The adults were observed supervising children in the outdoor play areas, during meal times, at toileting and in the playrooms. Adequate supervision took place at sleep time on stackable beds and in the designated sleep room.

## Part VIII - Notifications and Complaints

### Regulation 32 – Complaints

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that the complaints policy of the service specifies-
- (a) the procedure to be followed by a person for the purposes of making a complaint in relation to the service,
  - (b) the manner in which such a complaint shall be dealt with, and
  - (c) the procedures for keeping a person who makes such a complaint informed of the manner in which it is being dealt with.
- (3) A record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) shall-
- (a) include the nature of the complaint and the manner in which the complaint was dealt with, and
  - (b) be open to inspection on the premises by an authorised person.
- (4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (2)(a) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the complaint has been dealt with.

### Compliance Information

(1)(a), (b), (c)

The service when asked stated they had no recent complaints.

The service has a complaints policy outlining the process and procedure for:

- How to make a complaint, who the named person in the service was that dealt with complaints and that they are treated in a confidential manner.
- The implementation of the complaint's procedure and how the service dealt with complaints.
- The manner through which a complaint is dealt with and the procedures in which a complainant is kept up to date in relation to the complaint.
- The policy outlined the different steps in the complaint's process and the right of appeal.

(3)(a)(b) The policy outlined how the complaint was dealt with and that it was open for inspection by an authorised officer.

(4) The service policy detailed that a record is maintained for two years from the date on which the complaint was made.