

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY152
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Little Wonders Creche & Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Eden Lodge, Clybaun Road, Knocknacarra, Co. Galway.
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<b>Eircode:</b>	H91 XA39
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Monica Keenan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	05/07/2023
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	11
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla – Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Quality and Regulations Directorate, Clinical & Administration Building, Block A - (1st Floor- Green Corridor), Merlin Park, Galway City.
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan & F. Mc Donagh
<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 owned creche is located on its own grounds next to the registered providers home, in Knocknacarra, Galway city. The preschool caters for children aged between 1 and 6 years of age, from Monday to Friday between 8 am and 6 pm. The service offers the option of full day-care, part-time day care service, an (ECCE) Early Childhood Care and Education and sessional care programme. This preschool service offers outdoor experience and has a variety of interest areas for children. The service also has a fully equipped kitchen, 3 playrooms and sanitary facilities.

### Staffing

The registered provider is on the premises daily and there is a named designated deputy. There is a total of 10 adults working in the premises which includes 7 adults working directly with children, the registered provider, administrator and a chef. The adults have documentary evidence of on-going training and education.

On the day of inspection, there were 6 adults on the premises which included 4 adults working directly with children, the registered provider, administrator and chef.

The four adults working directly with the children, held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9,11,15,19, 23,28 and 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

A sampling process was used to assess compliance under regulation 15.

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, 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 and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.
- On the day of inspection, the 10 staff files were reviewed.
- (2)(a) &(b) Twenty written validated references on file, in respect of the 10 staff were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 10 staff.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated 7 adults, had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years. Seven adult police vetting's were required and were available for inspection.
- (4) Eight staff working directly with the children which includes the registered provider had evidence of a minimum of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 in Early Childhood Care and Education.

### 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),(2) At 10 am on the morning of the inspection, there were 17 preschool children present.

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

There were 3 adults directly caring for these children.

The registered provider assisted with the administrative side of the inspection and provided childcare relief.

In the afternoon, of the inspection, there were 11 preschool children present.

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

There were 3 adults, directly caring for and supervising these children.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were on the premises during the operation of the preschool service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (1) is retained for a period of 2 years from the date on which the child to whom it relates ceases to attend the service.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i).

There was a total of 42 children's records and a sample of 9 children's records were reviewed by the Early Years Inspectors.

The entries reviewed were factual, consistent, and accurate.

The 9 random records of children contain the following:

- The name and date of birth of the child.
- The date on which the child first attended the service.
- The date on which the child stopped attending the service (where relevant).
- The name and address of the child's parent or guardian, and a telephone number where that parent or guardian (or a relative or friend of the parent or child) can be contacted during the hours of operation.
- Written authorisation / permissions for collecting the child.

- Details are recorded of any illness, allergy, or additional need(s) the child had, together with all the information relevant to the provision of specific care or attention.
  - The name and telephone number of the child’s registered medical practitioner.
  - A record of any immunisations the child has had.
  - Written parental or guardian consent was included to allow the child to have appropriate medical treatment if there was / is an emergency.
- (4) The registered provider advised and documentary evidence from file review indicated, that all relevant children’s records were kept for 2 years from the date a child stops attending the service

### 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*

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.*

#### Compliance Information

19(1)(a) and (b)

##### **BASIC NEEDS:**

- The healthy eating policy was available for parents and guardians to view the snacks and meals were appropriate and the foods observed on the day of inspection.
- The snacks were supplied by the parents were healthy and nutritious and consisted of sandwiches, crackers, cheese, fresh fruit pieces, yogurts with milk or water available to children when needed. The main hot meal of the day was chicken curry with vegetables and rice.
- Crockery and plates were offered and used during children’s snack times, lunch and were appropriate for the age and stage of development of the children.

- All children attending the service were toilet trained and toileted independently or with some assistance or support by adults as required.
- The children self-care was assisted and encouraged by adults for e.g., to wash their hands prior to eating, after toileting, after using a tissue, after messy play and outdoor play.
- In the playrooms the children had the opportunity to rest or relax with soft seating in the form of child size couch in designated cosy area where children could take time out and relax. Stackable beds were available for sleep during the day.
- Children's behaviour was consistently managed in a positive manner by adults, with an emphasis on positive reinforcement and encouragement. Children are shown positive strategies to manage their behaviour during the inspection.
- There was an outdoor play area to the side of the premises and was sufficiently spacious to accommodate the numbers of children attending the service.
- The play equipment and materials provided in the outdoor area supported a range of physically energetic activities and play experiences.

### **SUPPORTING RELATIONSHIPS AROUND CHILDREN**

- The children were supported by adults to interact appropriately with their peers and siblings.
- The adults were observed to be interested in the children, spoke in low tones, listened to them and responded to their ques and requests.
- The adults interacted in a positive way with the children e.g., they sat at children's level, maintained good eye contact and they engaged in a positive way with children.
- Each child was assigned a key worker and the aim of this was to support children to form secure relationships.
- There was a daily informal exchange of information by the adults with parents / guardians at drop off and collection times. They use a private service application to send pictures and updates of children's activities.
- Each child artwork was collated in individual drawers and given to parents and guardians at regular intervals.
- The service is linked into the local childcare committee for professional support for the service.

### 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 main entrance door into the pre-school was secured to prevent unauthorised entry by a person or the unsupervised exiting by a pre-school child.
- All toys and play equipment were safe and in good condition in each of the childcare rooms and outdoor area.
- Fire doors were unobstructed to ensure the safe evacuation in the event of a fire or other emergency.

##### Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposable paper hand towels.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water was available for use by the children to facilitate hygienic hand washing with a temperature reading of less than 43°C.
- Tissues were available within reach of the children and the children were prompted to wipe their noses by the adults.
- A supply of hand sanitiser was readily available throughout the service.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No medication was administered on the day of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- All children were over the age of 2 years and stackable beds were available for rest.
- All records were maintained electronically and included the colour, position, and breathing pattern of the sleeping child and any necessary remedial action taken if required.

##### Outing:

- The service does not carry out outings.

#### Non-Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

1. Popcorn was observed in one of the preschool children's lunch boxes which may potentially present as a choking hazard for a preschool child.

### Infection Control:

2. Perishable food items belonging to the children were not stored in the fridge which may pose as a safety hazard for a preschool child.
3. Broken foot pedal bins were observed in the sanitary areas, it is acknowledged that these were replaced with new foot pedal bins during the inspection.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

The registered provider stated in their response:

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

##### General Safety:

1. A letter was drafted and sent to parents advising them that popcorn is not permitted in their child's lunch box and advising them of what food items are not allowed at Little Wonders. This will be monitored by the service.

### Infection Control:

2. Children's lunch boxes are now removed from bags on arrival of the children to the service and placed in the refrigerator. We will ensure that this is monitored in future.
3. The broken bin was replaced on the day of inspection and we will ensure that all bins are in a good state of repair.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

##### General Safety:

1. A copy of the letter sent to parents was submitted to the Early Years Inspectors.

### Infection Control:

2. No evidence was submitted.
3. No evidence was submitted as it was rectified on the day of inspection.

### Summary Comment

1, 2 and 3.

The response and evidence submitted by the registered provider has been deemed to have met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The insurance was available for inspection and valid until the 27 March 2024 for up to 50 preschool children on a full day care basis.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

#### Non-Compliance Information

- The ECCE preschool room was not maintained in a proper state of repair, the paint on the walls were chipped and in need of painting.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- The walls will be painted by the end of July 2023 and we will ensure in future that chipped paint on the walls will be repaired.

##### Supporting documentation submitted

No evidence submitted.

#### Summary Comment

The Early Years Inspectors have reviewed the response by the registered provider and has deemed it has met the regulatory requirements of this part of the Regulations.