

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015GY283
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tuairini Montessori & Afterschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Tooreeney, Tooreeney National School, Moycullen, Co. Galway
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<b>Eircode:</b>	HYI YR64
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Michelle Madden, Orla Keeler McDonagh
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	16/12/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	17	PM	3
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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, Co. Galway.
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	S. Meehan.
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector.
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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 part-time preschool service is on the grounds of Tooreeney national school. This childcare service provides a part-time care programme for children aged 2 to 6 years. The pre-school operates a part-time service from 08.50 to 13.40, Monday to Friday. There is also a sessional service provided between 08.50 to 12.20. The service has a large playroom and off the playroom there are sanitary facilities. There is also a kitchenette for preparation of food or baking with the children. There is a secure play area at the main entrance of the service for children to play and explore.

### Staffing

The two registered providers were working directly with the children in attendance. There is also another adult employed in the service who was not 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 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 providers 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.

#### Compliance Information

- (1)(a) The registered providers were the designated persons in charge and there was a named person available to deputise in the service. The registered provider was present and working with children during the inspection.
- (b) The manager, registered provider and a student were on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection. Staff rosters indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.
- (c) There was a clear management structure in the service, which identified the lines of authority and accountability within the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee.
- All three adult files were reviewed including the two registered providers and another adult:

- (2)(a) Five of the six validated references on file in respect of three adults were from a past employer.
- (b) One of the six validated references were from a source other than a past employer.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for the three adults. This was in adherence with the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Documentary evidence indicated that 1 of the 3 adults had lived outside the jurisdiction for longer than 6 consecutive months while over the age of 18 years and the police vetting was available for inspection.
- (4) Three adults held a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a minimum of Level 6 to a level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. Copies of qualifications were on file for the three 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.*

#### 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) The registered provider ensured that the minimum ratio of adults to children specified was maintained. On the morning of the inspection, there were 17 children present and in the afternoon 3 children present with 2 adults.

### 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

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- Healthy eating was promoted within the service and the food observed was healthy and nutritious. The snacks provided by parents/guardians consisted of a selection of sandwiches, fruit, crackers and cheese.
- The children were afforded plenty of time to enjoy their snack in a relaxed and unhurried manner. Crockery and plates were given to children during snack times, laid out on low tables in the outdoor play area.
- The children had access to a water on a low-level table and had their own water containers, which allowed them the opportunity to take a drink if thirsty.
- Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their own level of independence.
- Each child's privacy and dignity was preserved, while they were either toileted independently or with some assistance as required. All children were toilet trained that were in attendance on the day of inspection.
- The children had the opportunity to rest or relax on soft seating in a designated rest and relaxation area in the playroom. Stackable beds were available for children attending on a part-time basis.

##### Programme of Activities and its Implementation:

- A key person system was in place for each child to support their development and to inform curriculum planning. The role of the key person was to liaise with parents and guardians, conduct observations to support each child's developmental needs.
- Each child had a learning journal identifying their likes and preferences and showing their art and craft and work so far for the year.
- The programme of care was flexible and guided by the children's choices. The staff sensitively supervised and intervened when necessary.

- Transitions between activities were well planned by staff and were carried out in a calm and relaxed environment.
- On review of the documentation of the service they work in partnership with parents to enhance each individual child's learning experience while attending the service.
- The service programme of activity and curriculum which was in place supported the individual needs of each child in line with their age and stage of development.
- The emerging interests were recorded on a whiteboard to inform the short-term planning and emerging interests of children.
- The activities observed were both adult and child led, both indoors and outdoors with an emphasis of the children's emerging interests, wellbeing and development.
- Children were observed in arts and crafts, baking biscuits, writing their letters to Santa, playing games to music, circle time and playing in the defined interest areas in the indoor and outdoor play areas.

### 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 responder for children was available to the children attending the pre-school service. There were 2twoadults present on the day with a first aid responder certification that was in date.

(2)(a) The first aid box was accessible and in a conspicuous position in the playroom.

(b) The first aid box was 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 dated 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.
- (b) Records were available in relation to the number, type and maintenance of fire-fighting equipment with the annual service dated 8th September 2025.
- The smoke and fire detection alarm system for the premises had the last annual service dated 29 September 2025.
- (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 an in-date insurance certificate for the type of services provided and the number of children valid until the 27 March 2026.