

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE074
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Name of Service:	Caragh Court Montessori School
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Address of Service:	7 Caragh Court, Naas, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	W91 NR59
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Name of Registered Provider:	Anne Marie Egan
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	13/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	13	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace Rd, Naas, Co Kildare
Inspection undertaken by:	R. Brien
Title:	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).

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Description of service

Caragh Court Montessori School is a sessional service which provides care to children aged 2 to 6 years. The service is registered to operate from 09:30 to 12:30, Monday to Friday.

The service operates from a purpose-built premises at the rear of the registered provider's home in an urban, residential area of Naas, Co Kildare. There is a fully enclosed outdoor play area to the front of the premises.

Staffing

The service currently employs three staff including the registered provider who were all working directly with the children 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/ records/ health, welfare and development of child and safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

- 9 (1)(a)(b),(2)(c) – Management and recruitment,
11 (1),(3) – Staffing levels,
15 (1) – Record of a pre-school child,
19 (1)(a)(b) – Health, welfare and development of child,

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

23 – Safeguarding, health, safety and welfare of child,

25 (1),(2) –First aid,

26 (1),(4) – Fire safety measures.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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-

- (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*

Compliance Information

(1)(a)(b)

The service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2)

The registered provider confirmed that no new staff had commenced employment in the service since the last inspection.

(c)

Regulation 9(2)(c) was reviewed in respect of the three adults who work in the service. Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the three adults. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children at all times during the inspection.

(3)

The minimum ratio of adults to children for sessional care services was adhered to at all times during the inspection. There were 13 children attending being supervised by 3 adults on the day of inspection.

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.*

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Compliance Information

(1)

A sample of 10 records were available and were reviewed which demonstrated that a record was available in writing which contained the information required in (a) to (i) above.

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

(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

(1)(a)(b)

The registered provider stated that lunch is provided by the service and lunch took place at 11:00. Children were offered a choice of different foods for their meal and staff were observed supporting children as needed. Children were observed engaging in conversation with their peers and staff during their meal. Lunch time was observed to be a relaxed, sociable occasion with children given time to finish their meal. Drinks were accessible to the children throughout the day, and all children had a drink with their meal.

Children were given responsibility appropriate to their age and were encouraged and supported to be independent. The inspector observed children cleaning up after their play and using the toilet independently. Staff provided an appropriate level of supervision whilst supporting the children's independence during play and lunch time.

Staff displayed warmth and sensitivity during all interactions with the children throughout the inspection. Staff demonstrated a good awareness of the needs of each child in their care and responded to children's cues promptly. Staff were observed to use gentle tones and praise when interacting with the children. Staff were observed acknowledging children's achievements and efforts positively. Transitions within the service were

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

managed well and children appeared to be familiar with the daily routine. The atmosphere in the service appeared calm and relaxed.

The staff described how they communicate with parents daily about their child at arrival and collection time. Staff were observed to work well as a team, frequently supporting each other in relation to the daily routine.

The care room was bright and was arranged into defined areas of interest providing children with the freedom to play and explore. Designated areas of interest included a home corner, small world toys, construction toys, manipulative play and a rest area and library. The room provided a range of developmentally appropriate play experiences for the children and was adequately resourced with a variety of materials. The environment was laid out to support the children's independence. Play materials were observed to be accessible to the children on low level shelving. Low level tables and chairs were available in the room.

A fully enclosed outdoor play area was directly accessible from the care room and had a mix of artificial grass and concrete surfacing. A range of developmentally appropriate play equipment was provided. All children were provided with the opportunity to play outdoors on the day of inspection.

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 entrance door to the service was adequately secured to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of reach of children.
- The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection appeared in good working order.
- All blind cords were secured.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Infection Control:

- Liquid soap, warm water and paper towels were available to facilitate hand washing. Staff were observed to carry out hand washing as appropriate. The children were supported to wash their hands at regular intervals including after using the toilet and before lunch.
- The premises, equipment and materials appeared clean and maintained in good condition.
- Waste was managed appropriately with the use of pedal bins.

Administration of Medication:

- There were documented care plans available for children attending the service who required emergency medication. Staff were aware of the treatment plans and demonstrated knowledge of the procedures to follow if the medication was required.

Fire Safety:

- All fire exits were clear of obstruction.

Non-Compliance Information

Fire Safety:

1. Monthly fire drills were not completed. The last recorded fire drill was on 12 February 2026. Failure to carry out monthly fire drills may impede the safe evacuation of children and staff in the event of a fire on the premises.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Fire Safety:

1. Two fire drills have taken place since the inspection, one for the month of April and one for the month of May. Fire drills are now formally listed and reviewed in both our weekly and monthly planning meetings to prevent oversight.

Supporting documentation submitted

Fire Safety:

No supporting documentation submitted.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

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)

A person trained in first aid was immediately available to the children at all times on the day of inspection.

(2)

(a) A first aid box was safely stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous location within the room.

(b) A first aid box was available to the adults and children in the service at all times.

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 for the most recent fire drill which was carried out on 12 February 2026.

(1)(b)

There was a record to show that maintenance of the smoke alarm system had taken place on 13 August 2025.

(4)

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The procedures to be followed during a fire drill and in the event of a fire were displayed in a conspicuous location within the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

There were no records available to demonstrate that annual maintenance of the fire fighting equipment had taken place. Records available demonstrated that maintenance of the fire fighting equipment had last taken place in January 2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

(1)(b)

On the day of inspection, I made contact with the fire equipment maintenance company to schedule a call out. This was promptly carried out and a certificate issued on the 16th of April 2026. Annual reminder has been scheduled to ensure further oversight doesn't occur.

Supporting documentation submitted

Written evidence was submitted to demonstrate the corrective and preventive actions submitted by the registered provider.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions as stated by the registered provider have been deemed to address this non-compliance.