

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE100		
Name of Service:	Scallywags Montessori		
Address of Service:	Carbury Village, Carbury, Co. Kildare		
Eircode:	W91 XW22		
Name of Registered Provider:	Rachel Considine		
Service type:	Sessional		
Date(s) of Inspection:	26/11/2024		
No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM N/A
Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, Child and Family Agency, Suite 7, Vista Primary Care Centre, Ballymore Eustace Road, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 X38W		
Inspection undertaken by:	T. Duignan		
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).			
Conditions if applicable	N/A		

Description of service

Sallywags Montessori was established in 2003 as a privately run childcare service for pre-school children aged 2 years to 6 years by Rachel Considine, the Registered Provider.

The service is registered to provide sessional childcare and education to children from 9.00– 12.00hrs and 12.30 – 15.30 hrs Monday to Friday.

The service is located in a purpose-built premises separate from the Registered Providers own property in the village of Carbury. There is secure entry to the service. The service consists of two large playrooms, sanitary accommodation, and a large secure outdoor play area adjacent to the premises.

Parking and set down facilities are available.

Staffing

There were five adults present on the day of inspection including the registered provider. All adults were working directly with the children.

The adults working in the service have completed a major award 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 and health, welfare and development of child. 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, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(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

The files of five staff members were reviewed.

- (2)
- (a)(b) Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source other than a past employer, were available in respect of five adults employed.
- (c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for all adults working in the service. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.
- (d) Not applicable, as no adult had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.
- (4) Five adults employed and working directly with children attending the service held at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed equivalent by the Minister.

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) There were twenty-seven children attending the service being supervised directly by five adults during the inspection.
- (3) The minimum ratio of adults to children was adhered to on the day of the inspection.

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-*
- (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.*
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that no practices that are disrespectful, degrading, exploitive, intimidating, emotionally or physically harmful or neglectful are carried out in respect of a pre-school child whilst attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(b)
- The children were cared for by the same adults which enabled them to form secure relationships, attachments and develop their confidence within the service. Children were observed to be engaged, happy, content and relaxed within the two care rooms and in the outdoor areas.
- The staff members ensured the children were supported in all aspects of their physical, emotional and social wellbeing and demonstrated warmth, kindness and respect in their interactions with the children. Children were spoken to using their first name, appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones was used during all interactions.

There was emphasis on positive praise and encouragement as observed throughout the inspection. All staff in the service were knowledgeable and confident in their ability to manage children’s behaviours appropriate to their age and stage of development.

Transitions were well managed in the two care rooms, and the staff members prepared the children in advance when moving from one activity to another and from indoors to the outdoors.

The service had a healthy eating policy, and the snacks were observed to be healthy. Snack time was a social experience in each care room and the staff members sat with the children during these times.

Children were supervised and assisted with hand washing depending on their age and stage of development.

Children’s toileting needs were promptly attended to.

A suitable rest area with soft furnishings was available in each care room should a child wish to rest or take a break from activities.

The children were encouraged to take part in activities and afforded opportunities to make choices. All children were provided with outdoor play daily.

The drop off and collection times were opportunities for staff members to briefly share information with parents about their children.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

There was a good variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys, materials and equipment available for the children to use and play with during the day. Low level open shelving units displaying the pre-school materials and equipment ensured the resources were freely available and easily accessible to the children at all times in the two care rooms. Child sized couches provided a comfortable quiet space for the children to rest, take a break or read a book during the day.

Child sized tables and chairs were maintained in good condition and ensured the children could sit comfortably for tabletop activities and when eating their meals and snacks.

The outdoor play area had areas of interest to prompt the children’s imagination and there was equipment to encourage a variety of gross motor activities. A covered area ensured that the children could use the space during inclement weather

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

- (1) *A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*
- (2) *Where there are more than 15 children attending a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that one employee or unpaid worker is assigned responsibility for the checking in and out of children.*
- (3) *A registered provider shall ensure that-*
- (a) no person other than-*
 - (i) pre-school child attending the service,*
 - (ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*
 - (iii) an employee, or*
 - (iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*
 - (b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.*
- (4) *A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) (a),(b) The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.
- (4) The records are retained for the required period.

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) Persons were trained in in First Aid Response (FAR) for children and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

(2)

(a) The first aid equipment was safely stored, in a conspicuous position in each care room.

(b) Suitably equipped first aid boxes for children was available to the children attending the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

There was evidence of current insurance cover valid until 27 March 2025. The insurance provided cover for 30 children.