

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE143
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Name of Service:	Aldreigh Montessori and Child Care Centre
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Address of Service:	Aldreigh, Athy, Co. Kildare
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Eircode:	R14 VX58
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Name of Registered Provider:	Ann Manley, Claire Manley
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Service type:	Full Day, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	29/04/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	26	PM	18
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Primary Care Centre Church Avenue Tullamore Co Offaly R35K1W4
Inspection undertaken by:	A Spain
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).

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Description of service

Ardreigh Montessori and Child Care Centre is a privately operated full day care service caring for children in the age range 1 to 6 years between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm. The service is located on the grounds of a private residence. Rooms available in the purpose-built log cabin include a playroom which can be subdivided into two areas, sanitary accommodation for children, sanitary accommodation for adults and a nappy changing station, a storeroom and a kitchen. An enclosed outdoor area is located directly outside the service and leads to a carparking area off the service. The service is located on the outskirts of Athy town, in Kildare.

Staffing

The service is staffed by three adults which includes both registered providers.

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.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under:

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b)(c), (2)(a)(b)(c)(d),(4) – Management and recruitment,

Regulation 11(1)(2) – Staffing Level,

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Regulation 19(1)(a) - Health, Welfare and Development of Child,

Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b)(3)(a) – Facilities for rest and play,

Regulation 23 – Safeguarding Health, Safety and Welfare of child,

Regulation 25 (1), (2)(a)(b) – First Aid,

Regulation 26(1) (a) (b), (4) – Fire Safety Measures,

Regulation 28 – Insurance.

The scope of the inspection included all rooms in use in the service.

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 wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered providers, staff member and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

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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 service has both a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b)

Both the designated person in charge and the named person to deputise as required were present in the service on the day of inspection.

(c)

The staff were observed to be aware of their roles and responsibilities as they cared for the children on the day of inspection.

(2)(a)(b)

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Two written references from reputable sources were held on file in respect of the two registered providers and staff member working in the service. References were validated in respect of the staff member.

(c)

A Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána was held on file in respect of the three staff 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 in respect of all staff members.

(d)

International police clearance was not required as no staff member had lived outside of the state for over six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

Records confirmed that the staff working in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education, varying from level 5 to level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

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.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)

An adequate number of adults were not available to the children during the morning sessional service, which operates between 9.00am and 12.00pm, as two adults cared for a total of 26 children in the age range 18 months to 5 years. It is acknowledged that once the sessional service ended that the adult to child ratio was maintained.

(2) The adult to child ratio was not maintained during the morning sessional service, as 2 staff members were caring for 26 children, 3 staff members were required.

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Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

As a corrective and preventive measure, the registered provider advised in the response to the inspection report that an additional staff member is now working in the service between 9.00am and 4.00pm daily.

Supporting documentation submitted

An employment contract indicating the hours the staff member is working and signed by both the registered provider and the staff member was submitted to the inspector.

Summary Comment

The corrective and preventive actions taken and evidence submitted have addressed the non-compliance identified on 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-

(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

(1)(a) Basic needs:

Children were observed to assist with clean up time and to line up for handwashing before the morning snack in the service. Staff served the children their snacks from home on plastic plates and sat with the children as they enjoyed cut grapes, melon, oranges, yoghurts, wraps, sandwiches and brown bread provided from home. The children's water beakers were located on a low-level shelf to allow children to take drinks as required throughout their day in the service. The children sat at tables of their choice with their friends for break to develop friendships and ate at their leisure, while the two staff sat with the children and engaged in leisurely conversation with them. A child settling into the service was observed to sit on a staff member's knee and was gently encouraged to take a seat and have lunch.

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Two couches covered in a washable leatherette were provided in separate areas of the playroom to facilitate children to take a break from activities and to relax as required.

Supporting relationships:

The walls in the playroom were brightly decorated with artwork on the “every child is an artist wall” which including animals the children had coloured. Pictures of the children with their names and pictures from the children’s home settings on “my family tree wall” were also on display. The service maintained folders for the younger children and scrapbooks for older children to showcase their learning journey in the service and to take home. An electronic application was used to communicate details regarding the service to parents and guardians regarding planned activities /events pertaining to the service. Photos of buildings in the town were on display on the wall in the playroom to connect the service with the local community.

On the day of inspection the children were observed engaging predominately in outdoor play with their peers. Staff supported the children to enter their social groups and engaged in conversation with the children for example on the topics of punctured tyres and potholes when children were on ride on toys. Staff were observed to position themselves close to the children as necessary outdoors for example when sliding down the slide off the large playhouse outdoors and when using the seesaw outdoors.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day, and in the case of an overnight pre-school service, during the day and the night.

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises, or

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Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Toys and play equipment were located on low level shelving indoors for children to select toys of their choice to play with. A good stock of toys for tabletop activities, arts and craft materials and toys to play with on the floor was available to the children. Low level tables and chairs were provided for children to sit and play.

The outdoor play area was surfaced with smooth concrete which enabled children to play on ride on and with push along toys. Tyres anchored to the ground, climbing frames and tunnels, playhouses and slides, swings and balancing beams were noted outdoors for children to engage in energetic play. Picnic tables and chairs were provided for children to sit outdoors and for play activities.

(b)

Two couches were located in the playroom for children to take a break from activities and to sit and rest as required. A sleep room was available but was not observed being used.

(3)

The outdoor play area was safely and securely fenced in by high level timber walls. A high-level gate bolted from inside was provided between the outdoor play area and the carpark to guard against both unsupervised exit of children and unauthorised access to 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:

A high level timber fence was provided on both open gable ends of the log cabin premises to guard against unauthorised access during the operational hours of the service. Wall hooks were provided in the hallway off the playroom to hang children's coats and bags off the floor. A high level latch was provided on the door leading to the storeroom in the service. Bins for the storage of refuse and waste were stored in an enclosed area off the kitchen in the service.

Infection Control:

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Thermostatically controlled warm water, liquid soap, disposable paper towels and foot pedal operated bins were provided at the washhand basins off the childrens sanitary accommodation. The nappy changing procedure, hand washing procedure and a cleaning schedule were posted at the nappy changing station in the service. Refrigerated storage was provided in the kitchen to store perishable foods provided from home for children in attendance in the service. A pest control contract was provided to the service for rodent and vermin control and the last visit to the service was conducted on 23 April 2026.

Administration of Medication:

No medication was administered to the children on the day of inspection. The service had a medication administration book to record any medication administered to children. Temperature reducing medication was held in storage in the kitchen in the service. When queried, a staff member was aware of how to administer medication if required.

Safe Sleep:

No children present on the day of inspection were observed to sleep. The sleep room available contained 2 cots and 3 low level stackable beds. Staff reported that this room was not currently in use.

Fire Safety:

The front and back door entrances to the service were unobstructed. A fire assembly point was posted on a timber fence in the carpark off the service.

Outing:

A staff member advised that organised outings were not undertaken by the service.

Non-Compliance Information

Infection Control:

A foot pedal operated bin was not provided adjacent to the nappy changing station in the service.

General Safety:

Toys and equipment such as a child's pushchair were stored in the sleep room. Suitable storage facilities must be provided for the storage of equipment.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective & Preventive Action

Infection Control:

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As a corrective and preventive measure, the registered provider confirmed in the CAPA response that a foot pedal bin has been provided in the nappy changing area.

General Safety:

As a corrective and preventive measure, the registered provider confirmed in the CAPA response that all toys and the baby pushchair have been removed from the sleep room.

Supporting documentation submitted

Infection Control:

Picture evidence confirming the location of the foot pedal operated bin in the nappy changing area was submitted.

General Safety:

Picture evidence was submitted confirming that, in addition to the storeroom in the service to store toys and play equipment, a storage area is now provided close to the entrance gate to the service to store childrens pushchairs when walked to the service by parents and guardians.

Summary Comment

The measures taken by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified on inspection.

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)
Two staff members working in the service had FAR (first aid responder training) with an expiry date of November 2026.

(2)(a)(b)

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A first aid box was wall-mounted in the playroom, in an area easily accessible to staff caring for children in attendance at the 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 record was maintained of fire drills as conducted in the service. The last monthly fire drill was recorded on 9 April 2026.

(b)

The maintenance record for the firefighting equipment confirmed that an annual service was conducted in November 2025. The maintenance record for the smoke alarm system confirmed that the last annual service was conducted on 12 January 2026.

(4)

A notice of the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was posted on the wall in the playroom.

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Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance cover for a maximum of 35 children in daily attendance is a full day care service.
Insurance cover was valid from the 28 March 2026 to the 27 March 2027.