

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015KE201
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	An Scoil Bheag Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------------

Address of Service:	Cluain Phadraig, Dublin Road, Clane, Co. Kildare
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	W91 T327
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Mari Glynn
-------------------------------------	------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date of Inspection:	15/04/2026
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	14	PM	n/a
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Suite 7, Vista Primary Care, Ballymore Eustace, Naas, Co Kildare
Inspection undertaken by:	F Carty
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

An Scoil Bheag is a privately owned sessional preschool service located on the grounds of a domestic dwelling in Clane, Co Kildare. The service provides a play based sessional educational preschool service for children aged 2 – 6 years. The service is delivered from an extension to a domestic dwelling and operates for 38 weeks of the year. The service offers two sessional services per day one at 8.45am to 11.45am and 12.30pm to 3.30pm. There is an outdoor area to the side and rear of the building.

Staffing

There are three adults employed by the service and all were present on the day of inspection, the registered provider does not work directly with the children and 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, information and records, 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 the following regulations:

Regulation 9 – Management and Recruitment

Regulation 11 – Staffing Levels

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Regulation 16 – Information and records

Regulation 19 – Health, Welfare and Development of the Child

Regulation 23 – Safety

Regulation 26 – Fire Records

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 person in charge, 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

(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

The person in charge confirmed that no adult had commenced employment since the last inspection dated 12th December 2023.

(2)(c)

The registered provider demonstrated compliance with the regulatory notice to renew Garda vetting every three years.

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 pre-school children attending the service during the inspection. On the day of inspection three adults were working with 14 preschool children.

(3)

During the inspection the minimum number of adults were working directly with the children present.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

- (h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis;*
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;*
- (k) details of any accident, injury or incident involving a pre-school child attending the service.*

Compliance Information

- (h) Details of the attendance of each child in each room were recorded at the time of entering and leaving the service.
- (i) A staff roster was in place which demonstrated the staff present on the day of inspection.
- (j) One medication administration record was reviewed, the record was signed by staff and parents and was completed appropriately.
- (k) A sample of six accident and incidents records were reviewed. These records were signed by staff and parents and were completed appropriately.

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.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) Children's learning and development was being supported and facilitated by staff throughout the morning. This was evidenced in the outdoor area where a number of children were encouraged to explore their interest in worms, digging and examining them. Staff used this activity to extend children's learning by giving information and asking questions to the children encouraging the development of the child's observations skills and language.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

Interactions with children were observed to be warm, responsive and sensitive. Positive behaviour was actively promoted, and children were supported to find constructive solutions during moments of challenge. Individual inclusion plans were available describing interventions required by the staff to meet the children's needs. Staff stated children spend the majority of their time outdoors although, the option to go inside is available to the children should they wish. During the inspection some children remained outdoors whilst others chose to go inside to take part in art activities.

The outdoor play environment was equipped with multi-surfaces including artificial grass in one area and fresh grass in a separate area with sand, swings, a digging area and a mud kitchen. A playhouse, slides and a summer house with ride on toys and construction toys was also available to the children.

The indoor environment offered a variety of materials to support children's learning and development. These included items such as, a library with a selection of books supporting early literacy, small world materials such as animals and dolls supported imaginative play, a mark making area encouraged prewriting skills, a well-equipped home corner, construction and puzzles which fosters imaginative play, collaboration and social interaction. There was a family wall with photos and their artwork was displayed on the wall which provided children with a sense of identity and belonging.

The service did not operate a designated snack time instead preferring to allow the children to eat their lunch whenever they felt hungry fostering choice and independence. Lunches on the day were observed to be healthy in line with the service policy.

Children's independence was encouraged with children observed to access the toilet independently and change their clothing when they came in from the outdoor area.

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 secure to ensure the safety of the children within and to avoid unauthorised persons accessing the service or children exiting unsupervised. All cleaning products were stored safely out of reach of children.

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

The toys and play equipment observed in use by the children on the day of inspection were in good working order.

Infection Control:

Adults in the service were observed to implement infection control measures such as handwashing and cleaning.

On the day of inspection encouragement and supervision of children's hand washing was consistent. The children were encouraged, supported and assisted with handwashing following messy play, prior to meals and after using the toilet.

Adequate supplies of liquid hand soap, paper towels and warm water were available to facilitate hand washing.

Administration of Medication:

There was a care plan in place for emergency medication to be administered to a child in the service. The medication was stored appropriately and staff were aware of the steps to take should the medication be required to be administered.

Fire Safety:

The fire exits were kept clear. Regular fire drills took place in 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

Compliance Information

(1)(a)

A written record was available detailing fire drills that had taken place in the service. The record showed that the last fire drill had taken place on the 11th March 2026 in the morning class and the 13th March 2026 in the afternoon class.