

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KK097
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Woodstock Playschool & Montessori
-------------------------	-----------------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Woodstock Lodge, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	R95WY86
-----------------	---------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Martina Gantley
-------------------------------------	-----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	27/02/2025
----------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	13	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency Early Years Inspectorate Ely Hospital Ferrybank, Wexford
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
---------------------------------	----------------

### Description of service

This sessional service is in a rural setting outside the village of Inistioge, Co Kilkenny. The service offers a sessional programme to children aged from 2 to 6 years. It is open from 09:30 to 12:30 for 38 weeks of the year and operates from a detached building on the grounds of the registered provider's home. The service consists of a large preschool room, toilet facilities and a large, enclosed play area to the front of the service.

### Staffing

There are two staff employed in the service including the registered provider who also works directly with the children. Both staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on the following regulations:

Regulation 9 management and recruitment,  
Regulation 11 staffing levels,  
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,

Regulation 25 first aid,  
Regulation 26 fire Safety,  
Regulation 28 Insurance.

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

(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-

- (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)(b)

The registered provider of the service was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were two staff employed in the service. Both staff files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were four written and validated references available on file for both staff.

(c)  
There was Garda vetting available on file in the service for the two staff members. The service had demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice to renew Garda vetting every 3 years for all staff employed in the service.

(4)  
All staff working directly with the preschool children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework.

### Non-Compliance Information

(d)  
There was no evidence that one staff member, who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period on longer than 6 months, had police vetting in place. It is acknowledged that the inspector received evidence that the service did apply for police vetting for the staff member shortly after the inspection.

### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

Police vetting has been applied for the staff member who had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period on longer than 6 months. The registered provider will ensure all required police vetting is in place prior to staff starting work in the service in the future.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Evidence that police vetting has been applied for was received by the inspector.

### Summary Comment

The response and evidence submitted is satisfactory to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

### 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 was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children during the period of inspection.

(3)

At 11:00

There were 13 children aged between 2 and 6 in the care of 2 staff.

### 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

The preschool room and outdoor play areas were resourced with a supply of equipment and play materials for the play and learning needs of the children in the service. On arrival, the inspector observed the children getting their snack. There was classical music playing and there was a water feature, which children were observed to enjoy the soothing music and gentle sounds of flowing water.

The areas of interest in the room were well developed with thought and care for the children's needs. For example, there was a vets surgery with a small dog who was waiting to see the vet. There was a small clinic room with miniature equipment for the children to play with. Many of the children were from farming backgrounds and enjoyed the setting of the surgery. There was a dress up area with a supply of outfits for children to wear. There was also a supply of dolls and prams, cars, dinosaurs, jigsaws and plastic bricks for tabletop play. There was extensive evidence of creative activities which had been carried out in the service. There were large bags of flour

to make play dough, bun cases used to make a collage of flowers and a supply of aprons for the children to wear. Children took pride in showing the inspector the various art works they had completed in the service. Toys were arranged on easily accessible shelves in the service. They were well cared for and organised. Of further particular note was the practical life corner which was resourced with quality Montessori equipment. The outdoor area had a large tree with four swings suspended from the large branches. There was a mud kitchen, a slide, ride on toys and balls for the children to play with. Children were observed to enjoy the natural surroundings, digging and playing with the fallen leaves and making imaginative buildings with the small twigs they had found.

### 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

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

There was no staff member working in the service who was trained in a First Aid responder course. It is acknowledged the inspector received confirmation from the registered provider that a staff member would be attending a first aid responder course in March 2025.

#### Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

The registered provider has booked to attend a first aid responder course.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

The inspector received evidence the registered provider has booked to attend a first aid responder course. The certificate will be forwarded to the inspector when received by the registered provider.

## **Summary Comment**

The action outlined by the registered provider will address the non-compliance once complete.

## 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 firefighting 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in February 2025.

(b)

The annual record of the maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm was carried out in the service in January 2025.

(4)

There was a notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire displayed in a conspicuous position in the entrance door to 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 adequate insurance in place to cover the number of children the service was registered to accommodate.