

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015KY112
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Sliabh Luachra Montessori
-------------------------	---------------------------

<b>Address of Service:</b>	The Square, Rathmore, Co. Kerry
----------------------------	---------------------------------

<b>Eircode:</b>	P51 VX03
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Emma Cooper
-------------------------------------	-------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
----------------------	----------------------

<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	24/10/2023
<b>Date of Regulatory Compliance Meeting:</b>	12/01/2024

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	21	PM	3
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	---

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	134 Bank Place, Mallow, Cork. P51 EC59
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E. Friel
<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>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

Sliabh Luachra Montessori is an early years care and education premises offering both part-time and sessional services. Opening hours are from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm, facilitating the Early Years Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme between 9.00 am and 12 noon. While registered for children aged from 2 years to 6 years of age the service currently accommodates children aged from 2 years 6 months to 6 years of age and is opened 38 weeks of the year.

The service is located on the main street in the village of Rathmore in County Kerry. It operates from a two-storey mid-terrace house which has been converted for use as a childcare premises. The ground floor consists of an entrance hall, care room (Dancing Daisies) and a storage room, the first floor consists of a care room (Shining Sunflowers) and a storage room. Both care rooms have children's sanitary facilities with two toilets located off each room and adult toilets are located on the ground and first floor. A secure outdoor play area is situated at the rear of the service and there is car parking on the main street, directly outside the main entrance.

### Staffing

There are six staff employed by the service including the registered provider, two AIM Support Workers and a relief worker. There were four staff working directly with the children on the day of inspection including one AIM Support worker and the relief worker.

### 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.

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.

## Additional Information

An Immediate Action Notice was issued on site on the 24 October 2023 in regard to Garda Vetting disclosures which were missing in respect of four adults for whom they were required. A written response was received in the office of the inspectorate on 25 October 2023 in response to the Immediate Action Notice which was adequate in addressing the issue.

Following submission of the Corrective Actions and Preventive Actions (CAPA) forms there were still issues outstanding. A Regulatory Compliance Meeting was held on the 12 January 2024 to discuss these issues

## Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, deputy, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part II - Registration and Register

### Regulation 8 - Notification of change in circumstances

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a temporary pre-school service shall, subject to paragraph (3), notify the Agency in writing of any proposed change in the details in relation to the pre-school service contained in the register pursuant to section 58C (2) of the Act or Regulation 7(2) at least 60 days before it is proposed that the change would take effect.*

### Non-Compliance Information

(1) Through conversation with the registered provider, at the introductory meeting, it was found that the service had not informed the agency of a change in circumstances regarding timing of the morning session from the current registered time of 9.00 am until 12 noon to 9.15 am to 12.15 pm. Not ensuring this change had been updated on the national register does not allow for the accurate service operations details to be retained and published by Tusla on the National register.

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

#### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

The following statement was received from the registered provider:

(1) The change in circumstances form has been submitted to the registration department.

#### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(1) Following the Regulatory Compliance Meeting on 12 January 2023 a copy of the change in circumstances form submitted by the Registered Provider to the registration department was received in the Office of the Inspectorate on 18 January 2023. An email was received on the same day from the registration department confirming the change.

### Summary Comment

The non-compliance under Regulation 8 has been addressed.

### 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 registered provider was the designated person in charge and a named person was available to deputise.
  - (b) The designated person and the named person were available throughout the inspection.
  - (c) Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- (2) Recruitment records for all six adults were reviewed. The registered provider's references did not require validation.
- (a) There were five references and two validations from past employers.
  - (b) There were three references from sources other than past employers.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures from the National Vetting Bureau were available for two of the six adults employed in the service.

(4) Certificates were available to evidence that three of the six adults employed by the service held a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework and one adult had a Letter of Eligibility to Practice from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a)(b) Two staff members were missing two references each and four staff members were missing two validations each.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures were not available for four of the six adults whose files were assessed. This non-compliance was also observed on the last inspection carried out on 12 October 2021, in which the registered provider stated that all garda vetting would be in place prior to employees commencing employment, this was not found in practice on the day of inspection. An Immediate Action Notice was issued on site to the registered provider with a request to submit a written response within 24 hours.
- (d) International police vetting was not on file for one adult for whom it was required. In addition, international police vetting could not be assessed for two adults as there was no curricula vitae on file.
- (4)
- Two staff members employed by the service to work directly with the children, only one of whom was working with the children on the day of inspection, did not have, on file, an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent. This non-compliance was also observed on the last inspection carried out on 12 October 2021, in which the registered provider stated that childcare qualifications would be obtained by the person in charge prior to the adult working directly with the children in an early years setting, this was not found in practice on the day of inspection.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a) (b) Two staff members now have two validations each on file. One staff member no longer works in the service therefore, two references and two validations are no longer required for this staff member. In future all references and validations will be in place before the employees commenced employment.
- (c) The following written response was received from the registered provider on 25 October 2023 in regard to the Immediate Action Notice issued in respect of the four adults who did not have Garda Vetting Disclosures on file: A Garda vetting disclosure was located for one adult; a second adult no longer requires Garda vetting as they no longer work in the service; the third adult has applied for Garda vetting and enquiries are being made on the fourth staff member's Garda vetting application with the vetting agency.
- (d) One adult has left the service and will not be returning, therefore international police vetting is now not required for that adult. The second adult's curriculum vitae is now on file which indicates that international police vetting is not required, and the third adult has applied for international vetting. In future all international police vetting will be available before any adult working directly with the children commences employment.
- (4) One adult has left the service and does not now require evidence of qualifications. In future, all adults working directly with the children will have on file, prior to commencement of employment, an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

- (2)
- (a) (b) Copies of four validations were received in respect of two adults on 8 December 2023. Copies of two references and two validations, for the remaining adult, were received in the Office of the Inspectorate on 12 January 2024.
- (c) A copy of a Garda vetting disclosure was received by the office of the inspectorate for one adult on 25 October 2023. The registered provider stated in their response that the second adult no longer requires a Garda vetting disclosure as they have left the service; this statement has been accepted. A copy of a Garda vetting disclosure for the third staff member was received on 22 December 2023. Following the Regulatory Compliance Meeting held on 12 January 2024 the fourth staff member's Garda vetting disclosure was received on 17 January 2024.

- (d) The registered provider stated in their response that one adult has left the service and international police vetting is no longer required for that adult; this statement has been accepted. A copy of a curriculum vitae for the second adult was received in the office of the inspectorate which evidenced that no international police vetting was required. An international police vetting disclosure was received in the office of the inspectorate on 22 December 2023 in respect of the third adult for whom international police vetting was required.
- (4) The registered provider stated in their response that one adult has left the service therefore no longer requires evidence of their qualifications; this statement has been accepted. In respect of the second adult, evidence was received in the Office of the Inspectorate on 12 January 2024 which indicated that the adult had an award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 or above on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Summary Comment

The inspector reviewed the corrective actions and evidence provided after the inspection. Following the Regulatory Compliance meeting on 12 January 2024, The registered provider demonstrated that the non-compliances identified under Regulation 9 (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) & (4) have been resolved.

### 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.*
- (8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)- (a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) The registered provider ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working with the children at all times.

(2) The adult child ratio was met. The two care rooms were in operation on the day of inspection.

Dancing Daisies (2 Years 6 months to 3 years 6 months)

There were six sessional and one part-time child in attendance with two adults.

Shining Sunflowers (3 years 6 months to 6 years)

There were twelve sessional and two part-time children in attendance with two adults.

There were three children availing of the part-time hours from 12 noon until 2.00 pm with two adults in attendance.

(8) There were two adults on the premises at all times when the pre-school children were present in the service.

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) Fourteen Records of pre-school children attending the Shining Sunflowers care room were examined. Ten children's records were found to contain the particulars of (a) to (i) above.

## Non-Compliance Information

- (1)  
(a) – (i) A complete record of particulars was missing for one pre-school child on the day of inspection.  
(g) Two records were missing in respect of the names and telephones number of the General Practitioners.  
(h) One record was missing in respect of immunisation.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1)  
(a) – (i) The pre-school record of the child is now available in the service.  
(g) The names and telephone numbers of the General Practitioners have been added to the two children's records.  
(h) The immunisation record has now been completed by the parent.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)  
(a) – (i) A completed copy of the missing pre-school record for one child was received on 18 December 2023.  
(g) Copies of the missing General Practitioners names and telephone numbers were received in the office of the inspectorate.  
(h) A copy of the immunisation record for the missing child was received in the office of the inspectorate on 8 December 2023.

## Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under regulation 15 (1).

### 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:*

*(i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;*

#### Non-Compliance Information

(i) The registered provider was unable to furnish staff rosters detailing the following: staff on duty while the service was in operation, start/finish and break times of each adult in attendance each day, which adult was out on leave and the adults covering in each room. This information is required to determine that adult/child ratios are maintained correctly.

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

##### **Corrective and Preventive Action**

(i) The staff roster now includes the additional particulars requested.

##### **Supporting documentation submitted**

(i) A copy of the new staff roster including staff in attendance, the start/finish and break times of each adult working in the service was received in the office of the inspectorate.

#### Summary Comment

The non-compliance, (1) (i), identified under this Regulation has been addressed.

### 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

##### BASIC NEEDS:

- The service promoted healthy eating and food provided by the parents/guardians was served at snack time at 11.30 am and at lunch at 1.00 pm. Examples including sushi, croissants, yogurt, pancakes, filled sandwiches and a variety of bite sized pieces of fruit and vegetables.
- Children sat at the table when food was served, and one child was observed to sit on their own seat which staff ensured the child had at the table in line with the child's individual needs.
- Children were observed accessing the toilets off the care rooms independently. The dignity of each child was respected with children taking chairs and lining up alongside the closed door to wait their turn in the Shining Stars care room. Adults were on hand to provide assistance and reminders to wash and dry hands.
- Nappy changing was observed in the Dancing Daisies care room to be carried out regularly and after snack.
- All children could move freely in both care rooms and the layout allowed staff to supervise the children as they moved from area to area.

##### SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS:

- A staff member was observed offering comfort and support to a child who was having difficulty separating from their parent on arrival. The staff member sat the children on their knee and talked to the child in a calm and reassuring manner.
- Children were observed playing cooperatively with each other taking turns putting pieces of a large farm puzzle together on the floor. Adults were nearby to provide encouragement and to ensure that the interactions were positive.
- Staff stated various forms of communication are used with parents/guardians Examples include a messaging application, phone, text and face to face at drop off and collection which was observed on the day of inspection with staff and parents/guardians exchanging information.

- Children’s efforts and achievements were acknowledged by staff who were heard praising children for finishing puzzles and putting them away.
- Staff in both rooms worked together as a team with brief discussions centred around meeting the needs of the children throughout the morning.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

- The rooms were laid out in clearly defined areas providing opportunities for learning across all developmental areas. Examples including sensory materials observed in use on the day such as lentils in the tuft tray with spiders and cauldrons and playdough out on the table being manipulated by the children. Imaginary play was facilitated with a well-resourced home corner which included kitchen, kettle, toaster, dolls and doll’s clothes.
- Children were able to access materials and toys from baskets located on low-level shelving which provided freedom of choice and independence.
- The walls were decorated with children’s artwork, photographs of the children and their families and information posters including topics such as emotions, months of the year, alphabet and numbers.
- Each child had access to their own individually labelled hook to hang their belongings which had their photograph attached in the corridor outside the care rooms.
- The outdoor area offered an alternative environment for the children to play. Opportunities were available to enhance the children’s gross motor skills with cars and scooters available for cycling and a slide for climbing and sliding. Opportunities for imaginary play were available from a small kitchen area with resources including tables, pots and utensils. A large grass area was available for the children to run around, and a wheel filled with sand and resources provided scope for sensory experiences.

### PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES:

- Observations of children documenting their interests and needs were furnished to the inspector, including photographs of a recent visit from the Civil Defence with their firefighting jeep. Staff documented children’s emergent interests as they arose on the wall in order to include the children’s interests in the future planning of activities. Short- and medium-term plans were available with evidence of themed activities and areas of interest including a Halloween area with a pumpkin, pinecones spiders, leaves and the Foggy, Foggy Forest story book visible in the room.
- Language development was supported through one to one and group discussions such as when the children were taking turns scooping out the seeds from the pumpkin. A staff member was also heard reading a Halloween themed book to the children at the end of the session.

## Non-Compliance Information

### BASIC NEEDS:

- (1) The inspector observed that children did not have access to water throughout the day. At snack time the children were observed going out to the corridor to collect their water bottles from their bags and returning them to their bags when snack was finished. In conversation staff stated that this is an everyday occurrence, and the bottles are kept in the children's bags.

## Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (1) Water is now accessible and placed on the window sill of the Shining Sunflowers care room.

### Supporting documentation submitted

- (1) The statement from the registered provider that water is now accessible in the Shining Sunflowers care room has been accepted.

## Summary Comment

The non-compliance under Regulation 19 has been addressed.

## 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-*
- (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.*

## Compliance Information

- (1)
- (b) The sleep facilities are provided in the Dancing Daisies care room. There were three stackable beds available with individual bed linen for children who wish to rest or sleep. The lights in this area can be turned off to provide ambient lighting. No child was observed resting/sleeping on the day on 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 main entry door was open on arrival facilitating the dropping off of the children and a staff member was available to meet the parents/guardians. When the service was in operation the main door was secured ensuring that unauthorised adults could not enter the premises.
- The internal doors were appropriately secured to prevent children accessing unsafe areas.
- Handrails were provided at the fire exit door at the rear of the Dolphin care room, to facilitate children making their way safely to the fire assembly point.
- All flexes and cables were secured out of reach of the children.
- The kitchen area was closed making it inaccessible to the children.
- The outdoor play area was secured with a high stone wall and wire fencing. In addition, there were two bolted gates ensuring no unsupervised child could exit the area.

##### Infection Control:

- Handwashing facilities were supplied with thermostatically controlled hot water, ranging from 40°C to 42.6°C, dispensing soap and paper towels in holders to dry hands.
- Children were observed washing their hands in the Shining Sunflower's room before and after snack.
- Staff were observed disinfecting the tables before and after food while also sweeping the floor maintaining a safe, clean and healthy environment.
- Cleaning schedules were available and were noted to be up to date.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Anti-febrile medication was stored in a locked cupboard in the kitchen, out of reach of the children, in its original container.

##### Safe Sleep:

- Children in both care rooms had access to rest/quiet areas which had books nearby should a child wish to sit quietly; these areas were observed in use on the day on inspection.

##### Fire Safety:

- Emergency fire doors were unobstructed.
- The fire assembly point was visible, by way of a sign, at the bottom of the outdoor play area.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

- (1) The thumb twist lock on the fire exit door of Dancing Daisies, which leads onto the main road, was accessible to the children, posing a safety risk should a child open the lock and leave the service unsupervised.
- (2) The windows in the Dancing Daisy's care room were not restricted, posing a safety risk as the window ledges were deep and located at the children's height facilitating a child to climb up to gain access to the windows.
- (3) Both care rooms had large doll's houses which were not anchored, posing a safety risk should they tip or fall on top of a child.
- (4) The boiler flue in the outdoor area was accessible to the children as it is on the main fire escape route at the back of the service. The flue connection to the boiler was rusty and posed a safety risk in its current state.
- (5) The wood on the train in the outdoor area was splintered and coming away from the frame posing a safety issue as a child may catch themselves or their clothing on a piece of splintered wood. Paint was also flaking on the train, and it required sanding to reduce sharp edges.
- (6) There was a rusty scooter with sharp pieces of paint and rust peeling off, posing a safety risk should a broken piece lodge in a child's finger or hand.
- (7) There was no sand cover on the sand wheel in the outdoor area, exposing the children to possible harmful toxins from the environment.

#### Infection Control:

- (8) Perishable food was observed to be stored in the children's individual bags which had been hanging out in the corridor of the Shining Sunflowers, posing a risk from spoilage.
- (9) An adult changing a child in the Dancing Daisy's sanitary area was observed with no apron on, posing a risk of cross infection. In conversation, the staff member stated that an apron had been put on and was discarded when the child put his foot through it.
- (10) Children's hands were not washed by the adult after nappy changing, posing a risk of cross infection. In conversation the staff member in the Dancing Daisies care room stated that staff do not wash the children's hands after nappy changing.
- (11) The corners of the green mats on the floor of the children's rest/quiet area and under the slide in the outdoor area were worn and torn with material exposed making them difficult to clean.

- (12) The two-seater sofa in the rest/quiet area and the chair in the home corner were both in poor condition and worn making effective cleaning difficult.
- (13) The foot pedal on the bin in the Dancing Daisie's sanitary area was broken, posing a risk of cross infection from the number of hands lifting the lid due to the pedal being inoperative.
- (14) The large bin in the Dancing Daisie's care room was not pedal operated and the lid was left open, exposing children to the contents of the bin which appeared to be mostly tissues.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

The following statements were made by the registered provider:

#### **General Safety:**

- (1) The fire exit door in the Dancing Daisies has been secured with a safety device.
- (2) Window restrictors were fitted to the windows of the Dancing Daisies care room.
- (3) Both doll houses have been anchored.
- (4) The fire exit route has been changed; the children do not pass the flue pipe.
- (5) The registered provider has stated that the train will be refurbished in the spring time.
- (6) The rusty scooter has been removed.
- (7) The sand had been removed until a suitable cover has been purchased.

#### **Infection Control:**

- (8) Children's bags are checked for perishable food, which are removed and stored in the fridge.
- (9) Staff have been reminded that it is a requirement of the nappy changing procedure that staff wear a disposable apron for each nappy change.
- (10) Staff have been reminded that it is a requirement of the nappy changing procedure that staff ensure children's hands are washed after nappy changing and toileting.
- (11) The green mats have been removed from the rest/quiet area and from under the slide.
- (12) The two-seater sofa and the chair have both been removed.
- (13) (14) New bins have been ordered for the Dancing Daisie's sanitary area and the care room.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The following documentation and photographic evidence were received in the office of the inspectorate:

#### **General Safety:**

- (1) Photograph of the safety device fitted to the Dancing Daisies fire exit door.
- (2) Photograph of the restrictors fitted to the windows in the Dancing Daisies care room.

- (3) The statement from the registered provider that both doll houses have been anchored has been accepted.
- (4) The statement from the registered provider that the fire exit route has been changed in order that the children do not have access or come into contact with the flue has been accepted.
- (5) The statement from the registered provider that the wooden train will be sanded and repaired in the Spring has been accepted. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.
- (6) The statement from the registered provider that the rusty scooter has been removed has been accepted.
- (7) The statement from the registered provider that the sand has been removed until a suitable cover has been bought has been accepted.

### **Infection Control:**

- (8) The statement from the registered provider that the children's bags are checked, and the perishable food is removed and stored in the fridge by a staff member has been accepted.
- (9) The statement from the registered provider that staff have been reminded that it is a requirement of the nappy changing procedure that staff wear a disposable apron for each nappy change has been accepted.
- (10) The statement from the registered provider that staff have been reminded that it is a requirement of the nappy changing procedure that staff ensure children's hands are washed after nappy changing and toileting has been accepted.
- (11) A photograph of the green mats removed from the rest/quiet area and the slide were received.
- (12) Photographs were received of the areas with the two-seater sofa and the chair removed.
- (13) (14) A copy of the order for the new bins was received in the office of the inspectorate.

### **Summary Comment**

The corrective actions taken, and statements provided, for points 1-14, by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under this Regulation.

## 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) Each care room had a first aid box which was visible, stored within easy reach of the staff and available at all times.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)  
(a) The registered provider did not ensure that a person trained in first aid was available to the children at all times. While there was an adult trained as a First Aid Responder (FAR) between the hours of 9.00 am until 12 noon, the adult then went home and there was no adult trained in first aid to attend to the children from 12 noon until 2.00 pm, putting the children at risk should they require treatment during this period.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The following statement was received from the registered provider:

(1)  
(a) First Aid Responder (FAR) training has commenced on 10 January 2024. It has been agreed that the staff member currently with FAR training will be available at all times until training is complete.

## Supporting documentation submitted

- (1)
- (a) A copy of a letter of confirmation was received in the office of the inspectorate on 19 January 2024 from a training co-ordinator to evidence that the registered provider has attended two days of training and will complete the final day of training of the First Aid Responder (FAR) course on 30 January 2024. In addition, the statement received in writing from the registered provider on 19 January 2024 that the current First Aid Responder will be available at all times until training is complete has been accepted.

## Summary Comment

The following non-compliance, (1) (a), under Regulation 25 has been addressed. The registered provider has been requested to forward the completed First Aid Responder certificate when it becomes available.

## 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.*
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-*
- (c) an authorised person.*
- (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) Written records of monthly fire drills that took place were available in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on 12 October 2023. A number of fire drills were recorded in the month of October as part of the fire safety theme in the service, where the children had practiced the fire drill and how to identify the fire assembly point in the outdoor play area.
- (b) Written records of the number, type and maintenance of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms were available. Both certificates were dated 18 September 2023.

- (2)
- (c) The fire drills and maintenance certificates for the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms were available for inspection.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was located on the wall beside the rear fire exit door in the Dancing Daisie’s room.

### Part VI – Safety

#### Regulation 28 – Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider ensured that the service was insured. An insurance certificate with an expiry date of 27 March 2024 was available detailing insurance for a maximum of 44 children on a sessional/part-time basis.

### Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

#### Regulation 29 – Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (a) The building appeared of sound and stable structure.
- (b) The care rooms and sanitary areas were adequately lit, ventilated and heated.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (d)
- (1) Paint was observed to be flaking on the interior wall of the entrance doorway and on part of the wall where three hooks, to hold children's personal belongings, were fixed to the wall.
  - (2) The carpet area in the Dancing Daisies care room was not maintained and the edges were frayed and loose.
- (e)
- (1) There was no nappy changing unit available for staff to change children's nappies. A staff member was observed changing a child's nappy on a mat on the floor of the children's sanitary area of the Dancing Daisie's care room.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

The following statements were received from the Registered Provider:

- (d)
- (1) The wall at the entrance doorway has been sanded and repainted.
  - (2) The carpet in the Dancing Daisies was removed.
- (e)
- (1) A nappy changing unit has been ordered.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

The following photographic evidence was received in the office of the inspectorate:

- (d)
- (1) Sanding and painting of the indoor wall at the entrance area.
  - (2) Carpet removed from the Dancing Daisies care room.
- (e)
- (1) The new changing unit in the service, received on 12 December 2023.

### Summary Comment

The corrective actions implemented by the registered provider have addressed the non-compliances identified under Regulation 29 (d) (1) (2) and (e) (1).