

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

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|--|---|----|--------|
| <b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>   | TU2015LD031   |    |        |
| <b>Name of Service:</b>  | Winnie the Pooh Montessori  |    |        |
| <b>Address of Service:</b>   | 2 Ballinacurry, Drumlish, Co. Longford  |    |        |
| <b>Eircode:</b>  | N39 KR82  |    |        |
| <b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>  | Olita Lagzdina  |    |        |
| <b>Service type:</b>   | Sessional   |    |        |
| <b>Date of Inspection:</b>   | 04/02/2026  |    |        |
| <b>Date or Regulatory Compliance Meeting:</b>  | 31/03/2026  |    |        |
| <b>No of pre-school children:</b>  | AM  | 10 | PM n/a |
| <b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>  | Early Years Inspectorate, SAP Office, St Loman's Campus,<br>Springfield,<br>Mullingar,<br>Co Westmeath, N91 N4XC. |    |        |
| <b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>   | T. Duignan  |    |        |
| <b>Title:</b>  | Early Years Inspector.  |    |        |
| <b>Authority to Inspect</b>  |   |    |        |
| 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

Winnie the Pooh Montessori was established in this location in 2009 as a privately owned Early Years' Service. The service provides sessional preschool care and education to children aged from 2 to 6 years. The service operates from 9:30am to 12:30 hours and 14.00 to 17.00, Monday to Friday. The registered provider and the staff member transport the children to and from the service. The service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE).

The service is located in a building adjacent to but separate from the registered provider's home in a rural location close to the village of Drumlish, Co Longford. There is one care room in the service with sanitary facilities. An outdoor area is located to the front and side of the service.

### Staffing

The service employs 2 staff members including the registered provider who works directly with the children. On the day of inspection, the registered provider and a staff member were present in the service.

### 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 safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under

- Regulation 9 (2)(a)(b)(c)(d), (4) - Management and recruitment.
- Regulation 11(1), (3) – Staffing Levels.

- Regulation 23 – Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child.
- Regulation 24 – Checking in and out and record of attendance.
- Regulation 25 – First Aid.
- Regulation 26 – Fire Safety Measures.
- Regulation 28 – Insurance.
- Regulation 29 (e) – Premises.

These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

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, person in 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 two 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 two adults employed.

(c) Garda Vetting disclosures were available for two 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) Police vetting was available for two adults who had resided outside the state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months whose records were reviewed.

(4) One adult 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.

#### Non-Compliance Information

(4) One adult employed and working directly with children attending the service did not have documentary evidence of 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.

This was a non-compliance following the inspection conducted on 13 June 2022 and 23 January 2025. The corrective action submitted following the inspections failed to prevent recurrence of this non-compliance.

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

#### Corrective and Preventive Action

(4) The second staff member working directly with children is on term 3 of her learning and was on her last week of the 120 hours of work experience at the time of the inspection. The employee will commence working directly with children when she has obtained the full certificate.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

(4) No evidence submitted with initial CAPA response. Further information including screen shots of submission of course work for two modules dated June 25.

### Summary Comment

The written response and documentary evidence submitted has been reviewed and accepted by the Early Years Inspectorate. A regulatory compliance meeting was conducted by the Inspection and Registration Manager with the Registered Provider of the service on 31 March 2026. This area of practice will be assessed at the next inspection.

## 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 ten children attending the service being supervised directly by two adults during the inspection.

(3) The minimum ratio of adults to children (3) 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-

(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 of children:

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. The children's snacks were stored in the fridge. Lunches were healthy and included sandwiches, fruit, yogurt, crackers and cheese. Water was freely available throughout the morning to the children to self-serve. The children were encouraged to be independent when attending to their belongings, opening their lunch bags, washing their hands and going to the toilet.

The staff members working with the children were sensitive and responsive in promoting positive behaviours. Children were spoken to in a kind and respectful manner. Their first names were used; appropriate eye contact and gentle vocal tones were observed being used during all interactions.

##### Supporting relationships around children:

Staff members were observed being respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care. The registered provider was observed closely supporting a child who was settling in and conversing quietly in the child's main language to ensure the child was content.

The two staff members were observed sitting with the children at mealtimes and engaging them in conversation which ensured that the experience was relaxed and sociable.

Information was shared with parents and guardians by the staff members who transported the children to and from the service.

Face to face meetings can be arranged for parents/guardians as necessary, email and telephone contact are also used as alternative methods of contact.

##### Physical and material environment:

The physical and material environments in the care room was comfortable, inviting and laid out to accommodate the needs of all children. Defined areas of interest were observed. These included a library and rest area combined, a home corner, area with blocks, magnets, connecting toys, peg boards, puzzles and jigsaws, a construction area, small world toys and materials, mark making materials, arts and crafts and Montessori equipment on the day of the inspection.

All equipment and materials were accessible to the children and grouped to encourage children to use them independently. Low level chairs and tables were available to the children for meals and tabletop activities.

The outdoor area was located at the rear and side of the premises. There was plenty of trikes and scooters available for any child to use as well as space for playground games and running about.

**Programme of activities:**

On the day of the inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. The staff members supported the children with their activities and did not interfere in the play. The routine was child led and responsive to the children's interests.

### 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 into the service was appropriately secured to prevent children from exiting unsupervised and to prevent unauthorised access to the service. The staff members advised the inspector that they immediately cut/chop any food that may pose a choking risk to a child at snack time. They were aware of the risk of necklaces and would remove any if they noticed that a child wearing one.

The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the toys and play materials and safe storage of cleaning agents which were stored out of the children's reach.

Measures were taken to ensure that children who were transported by the two staff members to and from the service were safe. It was observed that the children were all in child seats with seat belts placed around each child during the car journey.

**Infection Control:**

Thermostatically controlled hot water, liquid hand soap and paper towels were readily available for hygienic hand washing and drying. Floor pedal bins were in place for the hygienic disposal of used towels and other waste.

The staff members supervised the children's handwashing and handwashing routines were well established. Staff members were observed washing their hands during the morning. The service does not have facilities for nappy changing.

The service was observed to be clean and tidy. Cleaning schedules were in place and evidenced cleaning completed on a daily and weekly basis.

**Administration of Medication:**

Medication was not given at the time of the inspection. The staff members were familiar with the required safe practices when administering medication in the service. There were no children attending who required medication to be administered while attending the service.

**Safe Sleep:**

A comfortable rest area was available to any child who wished to have a rest or take a break from activities for a while.

**Fire Safety:**

Emergency exits were kept clear to allow for timely evacuation in the event of a fire. There was a signed assembly point at the perimeter fence outdoor area and staff members demonstrated an awareness of fire evacuation procedures.

**Outing:**

The service conducts outings and an outings policy is in place.

**Non-Compliance Information**

**General Safety:**

1. The insurance for one of the vehicles used to transport children to and from the service did not have business class cover. It is acknowledged that there was current car insurance in place.

**Action submitted by the Registered Provider**

**Corrective & Preventive Action**

**General Safety:**

1. The car insurance company was contacted, and the policy was updated to business use class insurance. The manager will review all insurance policies at the time of renewal to ensure the correct cover for business class is obtained for both vehicles.

**Supporting documentation submitted.**

1. Cover note and certificate of insurance.

**Summary Comment**

The written response and documentary evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 23.

### 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) Eight staff members present were trained in in first aid response (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service.

#### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)
- (a) The first aid equipment was not stored in a conspicuous position in the care room in the service.
- (b) A suitably equipped first aid box for children was not available to the adults caring for the children attending the service as there were no bandages and paramedic shears available.

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

##### Corrective and Preventive Action

- (2)
- (a) The box was removed from its original place at the time of the construction works of the second toilet and is now being attached to a new designed place with the correct sign to be accessible to the staff. The manager will conduct monthly first aid check to ensure the first aid box is stored in its place.
- (b) A new first aid box was bought and checked with check list to ensure it has all the required equipment including bandages and paramedic shears. The manager will check the first aid box monthly to ensure the box contained all required equipment and has been restocked where necessary

##### Supporting documentation submitted

(2)(a) (b) Photograph.

#### Summary Comment

The written response and photographic evidence submitted by the Registered Provider has been assessed by the Early Years Inspectorate. Regulatory compliance is met for Regulation 25.

## 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) A written record was available of fire drills completed in the service. The last recorded fire drill took place on 30 January 2026.
  - (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm were last serviced on 15 April 2025 and 12 February 2025 respectively.
  - (4) Notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in 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 2026. The insurance provided cover for 22 children attending on a full day care basis.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-*  
*(e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

#### Compliance Information

- (e)
1. The service is equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities. Two toilets and two wash hand basins are available in the service.