

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015LK041
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Name of Service:	Castletroy View Montessori
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Address of Service:	1 Castletroy View Singland Limerick
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Eircode:	V94 Y584
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Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Sheedy
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Service type:	Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	25/02/2026
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	0
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Tusla Early Years Inspectorate 2 nd floor Estuary House Henry Street Limerick
Inspection undertaken by:	J Ryan
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).

Conditions if applicable	Not applicable
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Description of service

This sessional service was established in 1997. It operates a morning session from 09:00 – 12:00 hours Monday – Friday for 38 weeks a year. The service is operated from a room in the registered providers domestic dwelling and the children have access to a pre-school room, sanitary accommodation area and outdoor play facilities. The service offers a play-based curriculum.

Staffing

The registered provider works in the service each day and holds a major award in early childhood care and education at level 6 and has engaged in on-going professional development including first aid training. An emergency person was available nearby in the event of an emergency.

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 premises. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations.

Regulation 9 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)

Regulation 10

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Regulation 11 (1)

Regulation 19 (1)(a)

Regulation 25

Regulation 26

Regulation 28

Regulation 29

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 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.

(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 emergency person was available to deputise if required.

(b) The registered provider was on the premises when the inspector arrived at the service.

(2)(a) Two written validated references from past employers were available for the registered provider and the emergency contact person.

(b) Written and validated references from sources other than past employers were not required.

(c) A garda vetting disclosure was available for the registered provider and emergency contact person and had been renewed within the last three years in adherence to the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'

(d) Police vetting was not required as the registered provider had not lived in another state for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months.

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(4) The registered provider held an award in early childhood care and education on the national qualifications framework.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 10 - Policies, procedures etc. of pre-school service

A registered provider of a pre-school service shall ensure that the written policies, procedures and statements specified in Schedule 5 are in place for the service.

Compliance Information

The following policies were available and contained the required information.

- Policy on Managing Behaviour
- Policy on Healthy Eating

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.

Compliance Information

(1) There were 8 pre-school children aged 3 – 5 years being supervised by 1 adult for the session. The adult/child ratio on the day of the inspection met with the minimum requirements of 1:11.

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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) BASIC NEEDS:

The children brought their own packed lunches in line with the healthy eating policy of the service. Food observed on the day of the inspection included sandwiches, a selection of fruit and drinks of water. Children sat together around the tables and were given as much time as they needed to eat their food. Children were encouraged to wash their hands at appropriate times such as after toileting and before eating. Hand washing was facilitated in the sanitary accommodation with a supply of hot and cold running water and liquid antibacterial soap. Children toileted independently with assistance given to those who needed it. The children were supported and encouraged to behave appropriately for their age and stage of development through having simple rules to follow and a good level of choice of activities. Children were observed to lead their own play and choose different play activities.

PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

The room was equipped with open shelving units where children could access play equipment and materials independently. Play spaces, such as the library area, home corner, construction area, small world area, arts, crafts area, tabletop activities area were available. Children were observed to choose play materials, complete an activity independently. The group enjoyed circle time where the registered provider read a story to the children and they participated in the story line and were interested in the story. The group were observed making greeting cards while gluing and sticking sparkles on the cards which supported their fine motor skills.

Soft seating was available in the room where children could rest/ relax in and have some quiet time if they choose to opt out of an activity.

Good supplies of books were available which helped support language development. The walls of the rooms were decorated with posters and the children's artwork.

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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) The registered provider held current certification in first aid responder for children.
- (2)(a) A first aid box was stored in the playroom.
- (b) The first aid box was available at all times if required by a child.

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) The fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis. The last recorded fire drill took place on 16/02/2026.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was serviced on an annual basis, most recently in September 2025 and a record was maintained of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises. The wired smoke alarm was in working order.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the room.

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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

Adequate insurance was available to cover the number of children in attendance

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and

Non-Compliance Information

- The outdoor play area at the rear of the premises was not maintained, clean, safe and suitable for children to use on the day of the inspection. This non-compliance was highlighted in the last inspection report dated 09/05/2024 and posed a risk to the health and safety of the children.
 - Toys, the mud kitchen, ride on bikes and buckets were full of stagnant water and leaves. This posed an infection control hazard.
 - A box containing earth for sensory play contained stagnant water.
 - The all-weather surface was covered in moss in different sections and posed a slipping hazard to the children and staff.
 - A large slide was knocked over.
 - The gate to the oil tank and coal bunker was open and accessible to the children.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

The outdoor play area was thoroughly cleaned and all hazards were removed to ensure it is safe, hygienic and suitable for children's use.

All equipment, including toys, ride-on bikes, buckets, and the sensory play box, were emptied, cleaned, and disinfected, with contaminated materials removed and replaced as required.

The all-weather surface was treated to remove moss and eliminate slip risks.

The slide was repositioned and secured to ensure stability.

The gate to the oil tank and coal bunker was secured to prevent access.

A full risk assessment of the outdoor area and equipment was completed.

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Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence was submitted.

Summary Comment

The actions as submitted by the registered provider meet the requirements of Regulation 29.