

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015LK149
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Rosnaree Montessori Playschool
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	69 Rosnaree, Churchill Meadows, Raheen, Limerick, Co. Limerick
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<b>Eircode:</b>	V94 TK3KX
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Aloma O'Halloran
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/09/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	8	PM	5
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla, Early Years Inspectorate, Estuary House, Henry St, Limerick
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Browne and S O Brien
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### 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
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### Description of service

The service is registered to provide a sessional service for children aged 2–6 years, Monday – Friday from 08:45 to 11:45 and 12:15 to 15:15 for 38 weeks of the year, including the Early Childhood Care and Education Scheme for eligible children. The service operates from the registered providers own house which is located in a residential area on the outskirts of Limerick city.

The pre-school children have access to their own designated playroom, hallway, sanitary accommodation for adult and children and an outdoor play area to the rear of the service

### Staffing

The registered provider works directly with the children attending the service. She holds a recognised qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

There is a named person available to assist 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 safety. 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.

### Acknowledgments

The inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider 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*
- (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*
- (3) The procedures specified in paragraph (2) shall be carried out prior to any person being appointed, assigned or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the pre-school service.*

*(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 present on the day of the inspection and was the named person in charge for the service.
- (b) During the period of the inspection, the registered provider was present on the premises.
- (c) There was 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 the registered provider and the named emergency person.
- (2)(a) The file of the registered provider and named emergency person were reviewed. There were two written references available for one staff.
- (b) References were submitted from either their past employers or from other reputable sources such as previous schools and colleges.
- (c) Garda vetting disclosures received from the National Vetting Bureau of An Garda Síochána were available for the 2 staff. The Garda vetting disclosures were dated within the previous three years.
- (4) The registered provider working directly with children held an appropriate qualification in Early Childhood Care and Education or an equivalent such qualification.

### Non-Compliance Information

- (2)(a)
- There were no written references on file for one staff member. Two written and verified references must be on file for each person working in the service.

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

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

The registered provider has stated in the response that :

- (2)(a)
- The 2 written references have been received and were verified for the emergency person. The file has the required documentation for the named emergency person.
- New staff will have the required two verified references and the appropriate documentation on file.

### **Supporting documentation submitted:**

Copies of the 2 written references were submitted with the CAPA document.

### **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirements of Regulation 9 point (2)(a).

### **Part III – Management and Staff**

#### **Regulation 11 - Staffing levels**

*(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.*

*(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-*

*(c) a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that, where the person in charge operates the service single-handedly, a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge in operating the service is, at all times, within close distance of the service and available to attend the service to assist the person in charge in the event of an emergency.*

### **Compliance Information**

(3) There were 8 preschool children with 1 adult present for the morning sessional service. In the afternoon session there were 5 preschool children and 1 adult present. This met the requirements of Regulation 11.

(8)(c) The registered provider ensured that a second person familiar with the operation of the service and in a position to provide assistance to the person in charge, was at all times, within close distance and available to attend the service to assist in the event of an emergency

### **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) There were 8 preschool records available for 8 of the 13 preschool children attending the preschool service and each record contained the following information :

- (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.

### Non-Compliance Information

(1)

The registered provider had no written record containing the following information (a) to (i) for 5 preschool children attending the preschool service

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

## **Corrective and Preventive Action:**

The registered provider has stated in the response that :

(1)

The 5 registration forms have been completed by the parents and are in the preschool files.

The registration forms will be issued to parents before school year begins for completion.

## **Supporting documentation submitted:**

Copies of 5 completed registration forms were submitted with the CAPA document.

## **Summary Comment**

The evidence submitted was assessed and deemed to meet the regulatory requirement of Regulation 15 - Record of pre-school child.

## **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:**

Health eating was promoted, and children were encouraged to bring healthy and appetising snacks and drinks for breaks. The provider responded to the children's individual personalities, sensitivities and needs in relation to toileting and toilet training.

Children had unrestricted access to the toilet, and do not have to wait to use the toilet. The privacy and dignity of each child was respected at all times. Children were encouraged and supported to manage their own personal care appropriate to their level of independence such as putting on their outdoor clothing, wiping their nose and toileting. Children were encouraged and supported to develop good personal hygiene skills and were shown how to wash hand properly.

A designated rest area was provided for the children to relax and to have some quiet time.

The service uses a child-centred approach, creating an inclusive and diverse learning environment where each child has equal opportunity by a variety of means.

Children were supported to recognise, express and cope positively with their emotions. The registered provider supported children in forming and sustaining positive relationships with their peers and adult. The atmosphere

was nurturing and comforting, demonstrated in the use of soft voice tones, positive and encouraging language, the child's individual name and getting down to their level and making eye contact.

### PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL ENVIRONMENT:

Children spend most of each day in the outdoor play area to the rear of the premises. The outdoors was well designed with lots of outdoor space to facilitate all types of play and learning. Mud kitchens with old pots and pans provided an imaginative play area. Gardening, planting areas, gravel and sand pits provided opportunity for planting, digging and shovelling. Timber logs were used as balance blocks. An outdoor timber shelter provided shelter outside for tabletop activities if needed. An outdoor sink was accessible for regular handwashing outside. As seasons changed the outside area evolved providing lots of opportunities to learn from risk and challenge their capabilities within safe limits.

### 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 at the service had completed first aid responder training and the certificate expiry was dated April 2026 .

(2)(a) There was a well-stocked first aid box located on the premises.

(b) The first aid box was readily available and easily accessible if required

## 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. For the new preschool year the fire drill took place on the 17th of September 2024.
- (b) The firefighting equipment was not serviced on an annual basis. The maintenance records demonstrated that the firefighting equipment and the smoke alarm system were last serviced in November 2023
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the playroom.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

An insurance certificate was available on the day of the inspection which stated that 11 children per session were covered by the policy. The commencement date of insurance was the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 and the expiry date of insurance was the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2024