

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MH163
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Sandys Creche and Montessori School
-------------------------	-------------------------------------

Address of Service:	Grange End, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath
----------------------------	-------------------------------------

Eircode:	A85 RD28
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Sandra Rooney
-------------------------------------	---------------

Service type:	Full Day
----------------------	----------

Date of Inspection:	29/04/2025
----------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	65	PM	48
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	----


Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate, 181-189 Lakeshore Drive, Airside Business Park, Swords, Co. Dublin K67 Y5C6.
Inspection undertaken by:	AM Coyle & S Taaffe
Title:	Early Years Inspectors

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.
---------------------------------	-----------------

Description of service

	<p>Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Childcare Act 1991 (Early Years Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2016</p> <p>QMS Ref: EYI-RRT12.1 V2.0 03/03/2023 Service ID: TU2015MH163</p>	1 of 19
---	---	---------

Sandy's Creche & Montessori School is a privately owned early years' service which is registered to accommodate children aged 0-6 years for full day, part time and sessional care and education during the hours of operation, 7.00am – 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The service operates from a 2-storey building located within walking distance of the town of Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath and is one of two services owned by the registered provider. The Service participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) from 09:30am to 12:30pm for eligible children. There are 5 care rooms in the service located over 2 floors, namely the Toddler room, the Junior 1 room, the Junior 2 room, the ECCE Montessori room and the Senior Montessori room. Additionally, a sensory room is provided on the ground floor of the service. An enclosed outdoor play area is located to the rear of the premises. Three separate outdoor play areas are provided immediately adjacent to the service.

Staffing

The registered provider employs a service manager to oversee the operational management of the service in addition to 23 staff members to include a chef. The registered provider was present in the service throughout the course of the inspection.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 16, 19, 23, 24, 25, and 26; however, on inspection additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. 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 inspectors wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*

(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(b) The designated person in charge was present and in charge of the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced at 08:55am on the morning of the inspection.

All staff files were reviewed which consisted of a total of 25 files maintained for the registered provider, the 23 core staff members and the chef.

(2)(a) Thirty-three written and appropriately validated references were available from a past employer.

(b) Sixteen written and appropriately validated references were available from a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available for the registered provider, service manager, and 23 staff members. However, the service did not adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years. Please refer to the information outlined under regulation 23 of this report.

(d) International police vetting was available for 9 staff members who had resided outside of the Irish jurisdiction for more than 6 consecutive months as adults.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the registered provider, service manager and 17 core staff members who worked directly with the pre-school children in the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 - 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Non-Compliance Information

(2)(a) &(b) A second validated written reference was not available for one staff member.

(3) Following a review of the staff files it was apparent that 2 staff members who works directly with the children had commenced working in the service in advance of Garda vetting procedures being completed.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(2)(a) &(b) The staff member in question has now supporting documents and it has been validated.

(3) Ensure all staff are garda vetted before employment commences.

Preventive Action

(2)(a) &(b) All Staff will be checked every 6 weeks to ensure all documents are up to date.

(3) Ensure sure all staff are vetted before employment commences.

Supporting documentation submitted

One validated written reference.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 9 – Management and recruitment has been reviewed and accepted.

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) On the day of inspection there was an adequate number of staff members working directly with the children attending the service.

(2) The adult to child ratios were correct in the service when the inspectors arrived unannounced to the service and remained so throughout the inspection.

The following adult to child ratios were observed during the inspection:

- In the Toddler room, there were 8 children aged 1 year 6 months to 2 years being cared for by 2 staff members.
- In the Junior 1 room there were 15 children (of whom 13 children were aged 2 years 2 months to 2 years 10 months and 2 children who were aged 3 years to 3 years 1 month) being cared for by 3 staff members.
- In the Junior 2 room there were 14 children aged 3 years to 4 years being cared for by 4 staff members, one of whom was employed for 3 hours each day to reduce the adult to child ratio, and to work directly with children with additional needs, when necessary, in a post funded by the Minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme.
- In the ECCE Montessori room there were 13 children aged 3 years 10 months to 5 years 1 month present for the duration of the ECCE session, being cared for by 2 staff members. Ten of these children remained in the service on a part-time or full day care basis on the day of inspection.
- In the Senior Montessori room there were 15 children aged 3 years 6 months to 5 years 2 months present for the duration of the ECCE session, being cared for by 3 staff members, one of whom was employed for 3 hours each day to reduce the adult to child ratio, and to work directly with a child with additional needs, when necessary, in a post funded by the Minister as part of the Access and Inclusion Model scheme. Thirteen of these children remained in the service on a part-time or full day care basis on the day of inspection.

Additional staff were available in the service to provide additional support across all care rooms and provide breaks for meals when required.

(8)(a) The registered provider ensured that 2 adults were present on the premises at all times as evidenced in the staff rosters and staff attendance records maintained in the service

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:

- (g) the policies, procedures and statements the service is required to maintain in accordance with Regulation 10;
- (i) details of staff rosters on a daily basis;
- (j) details of any medication administered to a pre-school child attending the service with signed parental consent;

Compliance Information

(1)(i) A staff roster indicating staff members' start and finish times in addition to breaks taken throughout the day was available in the service.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(j) Not all medication administration forms maintained in the service were complete as some of the forms reviewed on the day of inspection showed that temperature-reducing medication and prescribed medication had been administered to children attending the service without written parental consent having been obtained to authorise staff members to do so. Instead, staff members stated they relied on the parent's verbal requests to administer medication to their child when required. Examples of this practice included forms maintained in relation medication administered in the service on 10/09/2024, 20/12/2024, 13/02/2024, 04/04/2025, 07/04/2025 and 09/04/2025.

In addition, some forms did not include a second staff member's signature to show that the medication had been appropriately checked and the procedure undertaken by 2 staff members. Examples of this practice included forms maintained in relation medication administered in the service on 13/02/2025, 04/04/2025, 07/04/2025 and 09/04/2025.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(1)(j) Following on from inspection a staff meeting was held, this topic was discussed to ensure that all staff are knowledgeable on the steps to be taken when administering medication. e.g. staff makes sure the parents sign the medicine book before an antibiotic is administered. Management discussed at the meeting the importance of two staff members being present whilst administering medication.

Preventive Action

(1)(j) Both staff members need to sign a medicine book and then management is to check that all appropriate measures have been taken.

Supporting documentation submitted

Completed medication administration form.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service has been reviewed and accepted.

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) The following observations are examples of how each child's learning, development and well-being was facilitated during the inspection:

Basic needs:

- Throughout the inspection the staff members were observed to be kind and caring in their interactions with the children and demonstrated sensitivity and responsiveness to each child's individual needs, likes and preferences. The children were observed to be familiar and comfortable with the staff, the daily routine and within their environment. Children called staff by name and the children were observed to seek out staff when they needed support.

- The service has a healthy eating policy which was observed to be followed on the day of inspection. A selection of cereal and toast is available for breakfast, dinner of mince stew, carrots, celery and potatoes prepared and cooked by the onsite chef was served for dinner from 11:15am in the dining room adjacent to the kitchen to the children attending the Toddler room with the children from the remaining rooms having their dinner at staggered times thereafter. Mealtimes in the service were observed to be a social and pleasant experience for the children. The adults sat at the table whilst the children ate engaging them in conversation and provided assistance to the children with eating as they required it. The children attending the Toddler room had tuna sandwiches for tea with the remaining children bringing both their morning and afternoon snack with them from home.
- Children's nappies were changed at scheduled times and more frequently as needed. During nappy changes, staff were observed to engage children in conversation and song. The children who were toilet trained were encouraged to use the toilet independently and gently reminded to wash their hands afterwards.
- The younger children attending the Toddler room were placed to sleep when they exhibited signs of tiredness with some other children in attendance sleeping at the scheduled period of rest after the children had their dinner. The children attending the Junior 1 room slept on stackable beds on the floor of the care room and the children in both the Junior 2 room and the ECCE Montessori room rested in the care room after they had their dinner.
- Throughout the care rooms the staff members were observed to approach children's behaviour in a supportive manner, calmly distracting or re-directing the children and using problem-solving techniques to good effect before any minor issues escalated.

Supporting relationships around children:

- There was a warm and welcoming atmosphere in the service, parents and children were observed being greeted on arrival to the service and staff members took the opportunity to provide feedback to parents and guardians on the children's day in the service when children were collected. In the Toddler room which accommodates the younger children in attendance a daily record of the children's feeding, nappy changes, activities, general wellbeing and sleep was maintained for the children and shared with the parents when the children are collected from the service.

- The inspectors observed supportive interactions taking place between the staff members and children during the inspection as evidenced in the staff members in each care room speaking warmly and positively to and about the children and engaging with the children in a responsive and caring manner.
- The staff members in the care rooms were observed to work well together and supported each other in the care of the children. Staff members updated each other on the children's care throughout the day which ensured the children's care needs were met in a timely manner.

Physical and material environment

- Except for the non-compliances listed below the learning environments in the service were appropriate to the age and stage of the children attending the individual rooms. Interest areas included home areas with accessorial equipment such as pots, pans, crockery and play food which enabled the children to extend their imaginary along with dress up materials, art and crafts materials, construction zones, small world, tabletop materials and relaxation areas which supported all areas of development.
- A range of books were available in the library areas of the care rooms which provided choice and supported children's language development. The children were observed being read to and enjoying books throughout the day.
- All the children who were accommodated in the ECCE Montessori room and the Senior Montessori room are scheduled to spend time in both these rooms for 2-3 days each week with an emergent and Montessori-based curriculum usually facilitated in the ECCE Montessori room and an emergent play-based approach implemented in the Senior Montessori room.
- The service valued outdoor play, and this was evident through the provision of 4 separate enclosed outdoor areas in the service. The outdoor area used by the children attending the Toddler room and Junior 1 room was located immediately adjacent to the Junior 1 room. The area was surfaced with artificial grass, a climbing frame with a slide, small see saws and a selection of ride on toys were provided for the children to use. A low-level barrier divided a section of the area to enable the younger children to play separately if this was required, this area contained a crawl through tunnel for the children to use. Further enclosed areas to the rear of the service were accessed directly from both the ECCE Montessori room and the Senior Montessori room, each of which were covered in artificial grass and covered in spacious lean-to open-sides structures which provided shelter. Play materials in these two sections included well-resourced mud kitchens and sand tables, a climbing frame, slides, rigid tunnels, ride-on toys and large plastic blocks. A large outdoor area to the side of the service was surfaced with grass with a

concrete perimeter pathway provided for the children to use the range of ride on toys provided. A large wooden climbing frame with a playhouse located on the upper level was available for the children to use, along with a separate playhouse with seating located beneath and a separate swing with gravel underneath. Two balance boards which the children also used as seating were provided, a plentiful supply of sand and water were provided for the children to use along with a well-resourced mud kitchen. All of the outdoor areas provided the opportunity for the children for running and free movement with the children in attendance on the day of inspection observed enjoying extended periods in the outdoor play area with the children from the Junior 2 room enjoying their morning snack outside.

Non-Compliance Information

Physical and material environment:

1. There was no supportive equipment available at the play kitchen in the Toddler room to enable the children to extend their play.
2. In the Toddler room there was a heavy reliance on plastic toys, many of which were stored in enclosed plastic boxes fitted into wooden shelving units. The enclosed boxes were snugly fitted into the shelving units which resulted in the contents not being easily visible or accessible and did not readily capture the children's interest, furthermore, the boxes were heavy and not easily retrievable by the children.
3. There was no family photographs displayed in the Toddler room to enable the children to bridge the connection between the service and home.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

Physical and material environment:

1. Supporting equipment is now at eye level and not placed away on the shelf.
2. Agreed to referral for service to join a quality development programme. They will wait on their recommendations for ways on how to improve some of the areas.
3. Family photographs are now on the wall.

Preventive Action

1. Ensure all boxes are accessible to the children at all times.
2. Quality development programme referral.
3. It was discussed with staff about the importance of family photos being visible to the children.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photograph of play kitchen with play resources.

Family photographs on display.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed, the registered provider has agreed to a referral to the national early year's quality development agency for support in relation to care environments. The regulatory requirement for regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child has been addressed.

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 doors leading into the premises were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the premises.
- The water temperature in the hot taps did not exceed the recommended maximum water temperature of 43°C. This reduced the risk of scalding for the children in attendance.
- Cleaning agents were stored safely out of the reach of children.

Infection Control:

- Apart from the non-compliance detailed below, the children were facilitated to wash their hands before eating and following outdoor and messy play. Children who were toilet trained were gently reminded, and assisted, when necessary, to wash their hands after using the toilet.
- Children's snacks, when supplied from home, were refrigerated on arrival to the service which reduced the risk of bacteria growth in perishable food items.
- Tables were observed to be appropriately cleaned before and following meals and snacks.

Administration of Medication:

- No children were observed having medication administered on the day of inspection.

Safe Sleep:

- The temperature in the sleep room was monitored and maintained within the safe sleep temperature range of 16 - 20°C.
- All children aged less than 2 years slept in a standard cot on the day of inspection.

Fire Safety:

- The records indicated and the inspectors were informed by staff members that fire drills were practiced on a monthly basis to familiarise both adults and children of the procedures to follow in order to evacuate the premises in a safe manner.

Non-Compliance Information

General Safety:

- A Garda vetting disclosure that was available for 1 staff member was not dated within the previous three years in adherence to with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice 'EYI-RN12.3 Renewal of Garda Vetting'.
- In excess of 20 bottles of temperature reducing medication were stored in an open-top box in a floor level press in the Junior 1 room. The child-proof latch in place on the press door was broken and therefore the unsecured press door could potentially be opened by a child, posing a risk to the children in attendance. It is acknowledged that a staff member promptly retrieved the box of medication and placed it safely out of children's reach when the risk was highlighted by the inspector.
- A large in-ground trampoline was located in the large outdoor play area to the side of the service in addition to 3 small portable trampolines which were available for the children to use in the 2 further outdoor play areas. Trampolines are considered to be inappropriate equipment in an early year's setting as they are not recommended for children aged less than 6 years due to safety risks.
- It was observed during the inspection that staff members used their own personal mobile phones to take photographs of the children engaged in play activities which were subsequently sent to parents through a smartphone messenger application. This practice is at variance with the services policy which stated that the service's mobile phone should only be used to take photographs. The practice of staff members using their own personal mobile phones to take photographs of children in the service posed a potential risk to the children.

Infection Control:

- The bin provided for the disposal of nappies in the nappy changing room adjoining Junior room 1 was not pedal operated. This increased the risk of cross contamination due to the numerous touch points required to dispose of a soiled nappy.
- The steps in the services nappy changing policy were observed not to be followed as evidenced by the following:
 - Some of the children were observed not to have their hands washed following nappy changing.

- Staff members were observed to wear seamed polythene gloves for nappy changing, these gloves are not suitable due to the risk of splitting or tearing in addition to not having good barrier properties.
7. In the sleep room on the ground floor that is used by the children attending the Toddler room there were 5 loose soothers stored in children's cots without lidded storage tubs. On discussion with the staff members, it was reported that the soothers are sterilised once weekly in sterilising solution, however the soothers are not washed in warm soapy water in advance of sterilising. Soothers must be washed after each use in warm soapy water in advance of sterilisation and stored in labelled lidded tubs to reduce the risk of cross-contamination and the spread of infectious illnesses.
 8. Several sleep mats provided for children aged 2 years and older were made of cloth material and were not wipeable which poses a risk of cross contamination as they are used by different children without being washed in between.

Safe Sleep:

9. A written record was not maintained of sleep checks conducted when children were sleeping in Junior 1 room on the day of inspection. Furthermore, there were no records available of children's sleep checks in this room since 04/04/2025. The inspector was informed that the sleep check record template was unavailable as it needed to be photocopied. Therefore, it was not evident that sleep checks were carried out at 10 minutes intervals, noting the child's position, colour and breathing pattern, in line with safe practice.
10. Four of the cot mattresses in the sleep room used by the children attending the Toddler room were soft and did not provide a firm comfortable base for the children to sleep on.
11. A large beanbag was provided in the cosy area of the Toddler room, beanbags are not suitable for use for children aged less than 2 years due to the risk of suffocation.

Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

General Safety:

1. The person in question has reapplied and garda vetting is now completed.
2. A risk assessment has now been done in the room and new child safety locks have been placed in the area.
3. A supervision plan has been put in place for the use of the trampolines.
4. A new phone has now been purchased for creche use only. All staff members have been told they are not to use their own personal phones.

Infection Control:

5. This has now been corrected, nappy bins replaced with new ones.
6. This was also brought up in the staff meeting. It was discussed that all staff members should encourage and promote safe hygiene practice. Polythene gloves have been removed from the settling, and they are waiting to source a new supplier.
7. The correct steps now have been put in place to ensure the appropriate measures of potential cross-contamination have been reduced.
8. On the day of inspection, it was discussed with inspectors that soft mats can be used underneath the “sleep mats” as the mats are used by children to rest on and not to sleep on. If a child falls asleep on the mat they are put into a stackable bed where they have their own sheet and bedding.

Safe Sleep:

9. This was also discussed at the staff meeting the importance of sleep checks.
10. These mattresses have now been replaced.
11. The bean bag has now been removed.

Preventive Action

General Safety:

1. Management to ensure all files are up to date and checks are completed every 6 weeks.
2. A Risk assessment to been taken each month ensuring all locks are in the good condition.
3. All precautions are taken while the child is on the trampoline, with adult supervision beside them at all times.
4. A person has now been allocated to ensuring if the phone is broken that the upkeep and maintenance is reported to management.

Infection Control:

5. It was discussed at the meeting about the importance of daily checks to be done in each room. A staff member has now been assigned to the nappy room to inform management when things are broken so they can be replaced.
6. Visual support is in place to encourage this. Have a backup supply to prevent this from happening again.
7. Staff were spoken to about good practice with hygiene.
8. Ensure the proper steps are being taken in the event that a child may fall asleep.

Safe Sleep:

9. Each week management will check that all sleep sheets have been filled out and signed off. A staff member is also assigned to ensure all appropriate documents that are needed will be photocopied Friday evening for the week ahead.
10. More frequent checks to be taken in the cot room.

Supporting documentation submitted

Copy of updated Garda Vetting.
 Photograph of lock on cupboard.
 Plan for trampoline
 Receipt for purchase of phone.
 Photograph of bin.
 Soothers stored in individual boxes.
 Copy of sleep records.
 Receipt for the purchase of cot mattresses.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider has been reviewed. The non-compliance as stated in points 1-2 and 4-11 have been adequately addressed. However, the actions in relation to the non-compliance regarding the use of trampolines in the service have not been accepted. The registered provider devised a supervision plan for the use of the trampoline stating that all precautions will be taken while the children are using the trampoline, however as stated in Tusla's Quality and Regulatory framework the use of trampolines are prohibited in early years services unless prescribed as a therapeutic intervention. Therefore, the regulatory requirement for non-compliance 3 under regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child has not been addressed and remains outstanding.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-

(a) no person other than-

(iii) an employee, or

(b) a daily record in writing is kept of the entry on the premises of any such person.

Compliance Information

(3)(a) &(b) The registered provider ensured that all staff members had recorded their attendance in the service on the day of inspection.

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) A person trained in first aid including first aid responder (FAR) training was immediately available to the children attending the pre-school service as evidenced in the staff roster and the in-date FAR certifications provided for inspection.

(2)(a) and (b) The first aid boxes were suitably equipped and safely stored in readily accessible positions on the premises, out of the reach of children.

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 record was maintained of fire drills which had been completed in the service. Based on the records maintained and as reported by staff members, fire drills were carried out monthly. The last recorded fire drill took place on 23/04/25.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises. Fire extinguishers were certified as having been serviced on 14/08/24 and the smoke detection system on 12/03/25.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (b) safe and secure,*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*

Compliance Information

(b) The building was observed to be safe and secure. Access to the building was gained via an intercom system at a secure door on the ground floor. This reduced the risk of an unauthorised adult entering the premises or a child leaving the premises unsupervised.

Non-Compliance Information

(d) The saddle board at the door junction leading from the dining room towards the outdoor play area was reinforced with adhesive tape which prevented the area from being effectively cleaned.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective Action

(d) This is now corrected.

Preventive Action

(d) Management will keep a check on maintenance.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photo of saddle board repaired.

Summary Comment

The evidence submitted by the registered provider in relation to regulation 29 - Premises has been reviewed and accepted.