

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015OY052		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	M & A's Montessori		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Unit 28, Axis Business Park, Clara Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly		
<b>Eircode:</b>	R35 R642		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Sharon Moyles		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	19/01/2026		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	55	PM 27
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Tusla, Child and Family Agency, SAP Office, St. Loman's Campus, Mullingar, Co Westmeath		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C. O' Connor Hughes & K. Murphy		
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspectors		
<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

The service is registered as a full day care service and operates between the hours of 08:00 and 18:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The age range of children that the service can accommodate is 2 to 6 years of age. A sessional ECCE service operates from 09:00 to 12:00 Monday to Friday. A school aged childcare facility is also provided.

The Early Years' Service is located on the ground floor of a two-storey adapted commercial premises. Four pre-school rooms namely the Garden room, the Woodland room, the Ocean room and the Farm room.

A sleep room, a dance room, a kitchen and general-purpose room are provided on the ground floor.

An office, staff room and additional facilities are provided on the first floor.

An outdoor play area is attached to the rear and front of the premises. Onsite parking and set down facilities are available. The service is urban in its location in a business park on the outskirts of the town of Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

### Staffing

The registered provider employs twenty-two staff in the service. The designated person in charge and ten adults were working directly with the children on the 19 January 2026. A cook, cleaner and two office staff are employed in the service. The registered provider facilitated the inspection and attended the closing meeting.

### 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.

Regulation 8- Notification of Change in Circumstances

Regulation 9- Management and recruitment - (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(d) (4)

Regulation 11 -Staffing levels - (1) (2) (8)(a)

Regulation 19- Health, welfare and development of child - (1)(a)(b)

Regulation 20 – Facilities for Rest and play

Regulation 21- Equipment and Materials

Regulation 23- Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

Regulation 24-Checking In and Out and Record of Attendance

Regulation 25- First aid - (1) (2)(a)(b)

Regulation 26- Fire Safety Measures (1)(a)(b) (4)

Regulation 27- Supervision

Regulation 28 – Insurance

Regulation 33-Furnishing of Information to Agency

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, 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.*

### Compliance Information

(1)  
The registered provider submitted a change in circumstance in respect of a change to the designated person in charge. This change was approved by the Tusla registration office in August 2025.

### 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 person in charge and deputy were available in the service.

(b)

The registered provider was the person in charge and was present for the duration of the inspection.

Twenty-three staff files including the file of the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references from a previous employer or a source other than a previous employer were available in respect of all adults in the service. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

A Garda Vetting disclosure was available in respect of the twenty-three staff files reviewed. The service demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d)  
Police vetting was available in respect of five adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(3)  
The registered provider ensured that vetting procedures were carried out in respect of adults before the commencement of employment in the service.

(4)  
Staff members working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at levels 5 to 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications or a letter of eligibility to practice.

### 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 minimum ratio of adults to children was maintained during the inspection.

(2)  
There were fifty-five children attending the service supervised directly by nine adults in the morning.  
There were twenty-seven children present in the afternoon supervised by five adults.

(8)(a)

The staff roster reviewed indicated that two adults are on the premises during the hours of operation.

## 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
- (b) appropriate and suitable care practices are in place in the pre-school service, having regard to the number of children attending the service and the nature of their needs.

### Compliance Information

1(a)(b)

Children were engaged and enjoyed play activities in the indoor and outdoor environments that included free play, story time, yoga and physical play supported by staff members.

The younger children slept in a in a restful atmosphere in the sleep room and were monitored by a staff member who remained with the children while they were sleeping. Regular nappy changes were carried out for children attending the Garden room. Good communication was observed between the staff member and child during nappy changing. Older children were observed to use the toilet independently and wash their hands. Opportunities were provided for siblings to meet up in the afternoon.

Parents /guardians provided a heathy lunch for children attending on a sessional basis. For those children attending on a full day care basis a hot meal consisting of sweet and sour chicken with rice was prepared fresh on site by the cook. The afternoon snack consisted of a variety of crackers with cheese and a fruit platter. Water was available for self-service in each pre-school room. A little helper system was in place as children handed lunches to their peers. Children were encouraged to be independent as they tidied their lunch into the school bags.

The staff were positive towards children and were familiar with each child, their personalities and their daily routines. Children were happy and content with their carers in the various pre-school rooms. Seamless transitions were noted in the pre-school rooms as the children were given a five-minute lead in time to change from one activity to another. Staff used children's individual names, maintained eye contact and conversed with the

children during play activities, when using the toilet and at mealtimes. Minor behaviour issues were handled in a calm and caring manner by the staff member.

The four pre-school rooms were bright and colourful with children's artwork and posters displayed. A range of developmentally appropriate experiences to meet children's learning needs was available in the pre-school rooms. Age and stage appropriate toys and materials were accessible to children on low level shelving. Children were observed to read their books in the rest area.

The service works in partnership with parents and guardians. Parents were observed to collect their children from the pre-school service after the ECCE session concluded. A verbal handover was provided to parents at this time. Staff stated a coffee morning will be held in the near future so that parents have the opportunity to discuss their children with their key support person. Communication between parents and the service was shared via an electronic application depicting the child's daily routine, play activities and mosaic learning stories as well as child development observations.

### 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-*

*(a) having regard to the number of pre-school children attending the service, their respective ages and the amount of time they spend on the premises, there are adequate and suitable facilities for each child to play indoors and, where required by these Regulations, outdoors, during the day, and*

*(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.*

*(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-*

*(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises*

#### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Suitable play equipment was provided indoors and outdoors which included toys and equipment for construction, tabletop activities, arts and crafts and home corners. Interest areas included home areas, construction areas, dress up and nature areas.

(b)

A separate sleep room was provided for the children aged two to three years who required rest or sleep. Twelve sleep beds were provided for the individual children. Cosy rest areas and soft furnishings were provided in the pre-school rooms.

(3)(a)

The outdoor play areas were safe and secure surrounded by high walls and fencing. A synthetic surface area was noted. Toys and equipment included a mud kitchen, sand play, children’s benches, wooden boat, tractors and bicycles and balls. A fairy garden was noted. Two sheds were available for the storage of toys and equipment.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

*A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.*

#### Compliance Information

There was a variety of suitable and sufficient play materials and equipment to support children for various forms of creative, manipulative, sensory, imaginary and free play in the indoor and outdoor environments in the service. Extra toys and play materials were available in a storage area in the service and alternated by staff as required. The tables and chairs were child sized suitable to each child’s age and development. Equipment was well maintained, durable and easy to clean. Materials were accessible to children on low level open shelving and drawer units. Personal belongings and bags were stored individually for each child.

### 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 service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival.

##### Infection Control:

The premises were visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Cleaning schedules were available. Warm water, paper hand towel and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation. The water temperature recorded at the wash hand basins was 30 degrees Celsius.

Children were observed to wash their hands before snacks and after using the toilet. The nappy changing practice observed was carried out as per the services' nappy changing procedure.

Foot operated pedal bins were available in the sanitary accommodation and in the pre-school rooms for the hygienic disposal of waste.

Natural ventilation was available through openable windows in the pre-school rooms. Mechanical ventilation was in operation in the sanitary accommodation and nappy changing room.

##### Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely in the office inaccessible to children.

##### Safe Sleep:

A staff member was observed to remain with and physically check sleeping children every ten minutes in the sleep room. The environmental temperature recorded was 18 degrees Celsius. Waterproof mattresses which conformed to a recognised safety standard were in place. Fitted sheets were in use. Each bed was assigned to an individual child.

##### Fire Safety:

The fire emergency exits were free from obstruction in the premises. A fire assembly point was noted to the side of the premises.

### Outing:

The registered provider stated outings are undertaken by the service. A risk assessment was reviewed for the service's most recent outing to the local arts centre.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 24 - Checking in and out and record of attendance

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that each pre-school child attending the service is checked in and out of the service by an employee or an unpaid worker.*

*(3) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

*(a) no person other than-*

*(i) pre-school child attending the service,*

*(ii) a person dropping or collecting such a child,*

*(iii) an employee, or*

*(iv) an unpaid worker, can enter the premises without his or her entry being approved by an employee, and*

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

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year from the date to which it relates.*

#### Compliance Information

(1)

The records of arrival and departure reviewed verified that each child attending the service was checked in and out of the service by a staff member.

(3)(a)(b)

All entry to the service with the exception of (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) was approved by a staff member.

(4)

A record in writing referred to in paragraph (3)(b) is retained for a period of one year by the service.

### 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)

Three adults were qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises during the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

Equipped first aid boxes were clearly located along the main corridor outside the pre-school rooms.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the service.

### 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 for the completed monthly fire drills was available on the premises. The last fire drill was recorded as taking place on the 15 January 2026.

(b)

A record was available demonstrating the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment and smoke alarms on the premises. The firefighting equipment and the smoke alarms in the premises were serviced in September and November 2025 respectively.

(4)

A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in a conspicuous position in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 27 – Supervision

*A registered provider shall ensure that pre-school children attending the service are supervised at all times.*

#### Compliance Information

The layout of the four occupied pre-school rooms, the sleep room, the sanitary facilities in the service and the outdoor play areas allowed for children to be supervised by adults during the inspection.

### 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 for the number of children attending the service. The expiry date noted was 27 March 2026.

### Part IX - Inspection and Enforcement

#### Regulation 33 – Furnishing of information to agency

*A registered provider shall furnish the Agency with such information as the Agency may reasonably require for the purpose of enforcing and executing these Regulations and the information shall be in such form, if any, as may be specified by the Agency.*

#### Compliance Information

The registered provider furnished the required information for the inspection.