

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015RN044
--------------------------	-------------

Name of Service:	Rinn Dun Montessori Pre School
-------------------------	--------------------------------

Address of Service:	St Johns Community Centre, Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon
----------------------------	--

Eircode:	F42 CK11
-----------------	----------

Name of Registered Provider:	Mary McCormack
-------------------------------------	----------------

Service type:	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

Date(s) of Inspection:	04/09/2025
-------------------------------	------------

No of pre-school children:	AM	44	PM	N/A
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	-----

Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Year's Inspectorate, Tusla Child and Family Agency, Government Buildings, Convent Road, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon.
Inspection undertaken by:	A. Kennedy
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
---------------------------------	----------------

Description of service

This privately operated early learning and care service is based in a community centre in the village of Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon. The service operates an Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) pre-school care and sessional programme from 9.30hrs to 13.00hrs, from Monday to Friday. The service is registered for pre-school children aged 2 to 6 years of age. There are two playrooms namely the Robins and the Swallows. There are quiet rest areas in each playroom, with child size seating and soft matting available for children to rest or opt out of an activity if he/ she wishes. There is a secure outdoor play area to the front and side of the pre-school for children's play and exploration. There are two all-weather sheltered areas in the outdoor play area. Additionally, the children have the use of the adjacent community hall under supervision, during inclement weather.

Staffing

Eight staff including the registered provider work in the service and hold a Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) at a Level 5 to 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education. The staff have documentary evidence of ongoing training and education.

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 inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, 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,*

(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) There was a designated person in charge and there was a named person available to deputize in the service.

(b) The registered provider was the person in charge and on the premises when the early years inspector arrived and remained on site for the duration of the inspection.

Documentary evidence indicated that either the designated person in charge or deputy were available, on the premises, when the pre-school children were present.

The eight staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) &(b) Sixteen of the sixteen written validated references on file in respect of the eight staff, were from a past employer or a source other than a past employer.

(c) Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the eight staff.

The service did adhere to the re-vetting timeframes as outlined in the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice, requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Documentary evidence indicated that two of the staff had lived outside the jurisdiction, for longer than 6 consecutive months, while over the age of 18 years, in two different locations one had the required police vetting and evidence was provided of the second staff members efforts to obtain the police vetting.

(4) The seven staff working directly with the children had evidence of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 to Level 8, in Early Childhood Care and Education.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) 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) At all times during the period of the inspection, the registered provider ensured that an adequate number of staff were working directly with the children.

(3) The staff rosters indicated that adult child ratios were adhered to at all times during the hours of operation. On the morning of the inspection, there were 44 pre-school children present. All children were aged between 2 years and 8 months to 4 years. There were seven staff directly caring for these children.

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 entry to the premises and the staff only areas were secure and thereby inaccessible to a preschool child.
- The external outdoor play area was secure so that children could not leave the area unsupervised and unauthorised persons could not enter the area.
- Fire doors were unobstructed.
- All cleaning agents were stored inaccessible to the children.
- Leads, cables, and flexes were secured and or inaccessible to prevent any trips or strangulation hazard.
- Windows blind cords were secured by fasteners.
- All toys and play equipment were observed to be safe and in good condition.
- There were visibility strips on the main door as a safety precaution.
- The temperatures of the playrooms were thermostatically controlled, and maintained between 18°C to 22°C.
- Thermostatically controlled warm water not exceeding 43°C to facilitate hand washing was available to facilitate hygienic hand washing.
- Heavy equipment and furnishings were anchored appropriately.
- Openable windows were high and thereby inaccessible to the children.
- The staff clearly identified to the early year's inspector, the drop off and collection procedures for children.

- There were no pits or ponds in the designated outdoor areas to cause any risk of injury to the pre-school child.
- A system was in place to ensure that daily records of attendance were kept for all the children, attending the pre-school.

Infection Control:

- Hand washing facilities were provided with a supply of warm water, liquid hand soap and disposal paper towels.
- Children were observed washing their hands after toileting, after messy play and outdoor play and prior to their snacks.
- Tabletops and work surfaces were cleaned with disposal paper towels and disinfectant spray.
- The playrooms were kept adequately ventilated with the windows and the door left open whilst maintaining the room temperatures at the required levels.
- Adequate supplies of disposable tissues were readily available in each of the playrooms.
- The service had a cleaning templates and schedules.

Administration of Medication:

- Medication was stored inaccessible to the pre-school children.
- The medicines examined were within date.
- On discussion with staff in the pre-school rooms staff informed the inspector of two children on medication.
- The staff were aware of instructions and storage requirements of the medication.
- A medication care plan detailing when to administer, how to administer and reporting instructions were recorded by the service.

Fire Safety:

- A fire evacuation plan was displayed on the walls in each of the playrooms.
- All exits remained free from obstruction on the day.

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) Six staff working in the pre-school service had evidence of a current first aid qualification for children.

(2)(a) A suitably equipped first aid box was available in each playroom and in an easily accessible conspicuous position. Additional first aid supplies were also available in a storage box.

(b) The first aid boxes were readily available, with content items within date.

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) Arrangements were in place to record monthly fire drills. The last documented fire drill was dated 10th of June 2025. It is acknowledged that the registered provider advised that due to the service opening on 27th of August, a fire drill would be carried out later in the month when the children settled in their preschool environment.

(b) A record of the number, type, and maintenance of firefighting equipment in the service was on file, last annual maintenance dated 8th of October 2024.

Records indicated that the last maintenance for the fire and smoke detection system was dated 12th of June 2025

(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in each of the two playrooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

Compliance Information

The service had insurance with an expiry date 27th of March 2026, which was for a sessional service for 44 children and included the following:

- public liability insurance,
- insurance against fire and theft,
- buildings insurance,
- insurance for outings undertaken as part of the service provision