

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015SO040		
<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lollipop Lane Creche, Montessori and Afterschool		
<b>Address of Service:</b>	Springvale, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo		
<b>Eircode:</b>	F91 D76V		
<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Louise Kilbane		
<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional		
<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	17/10/2023		
<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	53	PM 32
<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, TUSLA Child & Family Agency, Markievicz House, Barrack St, Sligo, F91 XC84		
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	L Costello		
<b>Title:</b>	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).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	Not applicable
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### Description of service

Lollipop lane creche, Montessori and afterschool is located on the outskirts of the town of Tubbercurry. It is a privately owned purpose-built childcare facility providing full, part time and sessional service. The service is registered for 60 preschool children. It also operates a service for school aged children. The facility has accommodation for five care rooms. On the day of inspection four care rooms were in operation.

### Staffing

Eighteen adults are employed in the service this includes one adult who works solely in the kitchen. The person in charge and deputy manager are surplus to the adults providing direct care to the children in the service.

### 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 inspections may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9 Management and Recruitment, Regulation 11 Staffing levels, Regulation 19 Health Welfare and development of the child, Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, safety and welfare of the child, Regulation 24 Checking in and out and record of attendance, Regulation 25 First Aid and regulation 26 Fire safety measures. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulation 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 inspector wishes 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*
- (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) (b).

There was a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required.

(c)

There is a clear line management structure within the service to include room leaders and supervisors.

(2) (a) (b).

The records of all eighteen staff employed in the service were reviewed.

Two written and verified past employer references or references from a reputable source in the absence of a past employer were available for all eighteen staff employed in the service.

(c)

A garda vetting disclosure was available for all eighteen staff employed in the service.

(d)

International police vetting was available for four adults who had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(3).

The procedures specified in paragraph (2) had been completed prior to any person being appointed, assigned, or allowed access to or contact with a child attending the preschool service.

(4)

Eighteen staff members employed in the service and working directly with the preschool children had attained major awards in Early Childhood Care and Education at level 5 or above on the national framework of qualifications.

### 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.*
- (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.*

#### Compliance Information

- (1). The Registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were always working directly with the children. On the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service there was ten staff providing direct care to 53 children.
- (2). The minimum ratio of adults to children were provided on the day of the inspection in accordance with the required ratio considering the age of the children and the length of time each child spent in the service as outlined below:
- Blooms Room: nine children in attendance aged between three to five years, supported by two adults.
- Year 2 ECCE: 18 children in attendance aged between three to five years, supported by three adults.
- Sprouts room: Nine children aged between one year and two years and eight months, supported by two adults.
- Blooms Room: 16 children aged between two years and eight months to three years, supported by three adults.
- (3). A review of rosters ensured that the adequate adult to child ratios are being maintained.

### 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*

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(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

The four rooms in operation in the service Blossoms, Blooms, Sprouts and Buds were all colourfully decorated with displays of the children's artwork and child friendly posters. The sprouts room provided care for the younger children aged one year to two and eight months. Interest areas in this room included soft play area, home corner with age-appropriate equipment, dress up area, building blocks and floor-based activities. The children in this room moved freely around the room from one interest area to another. Staff members took time to engage with the children and the various activities, supporting children to complete puzzles and jig saws.

The Blooms room had a range of play based materials that offered stimulation, exploration, and imagination. All resources were positioned at an accessible level on open shelving which nurtured independence and facilitated choice. Children moved freely around this area, choosing what to play with. Blossoms and Buds care room were similarly decorated with varied interests to capture the imagination of the child utilising the room. Interest areas supported development of fine motor skills with use of peg boards and threading, cognitive development with role play areas of dress up, home corners and beauty salons. Sensorial development with the of sand and water tables.

The outdoor area in the service focussed on the gross motor skills of the children, with a variety of tunnels and tyres, bikes, and trikes. Cognitive development was stimulated with mud kitchens, boats and playhouses. There was a strong focus on spending time in the outdoors, all children and staff had appropriate wet gear and wellingtons to ensure access to the outdoors could be facilitated in all weathers.

The service took measures to support children's relationships including displaying photographs of children's families. The use of a child profile form gave staff members valuable information about the child's likes, dislikes, daily routine, interests, and family, this was stored in each child's observation folder in each care room.

Staff had a good knowledge of children’s families and engaged in positive conversations about recent celebrations in children’s homes. Communication was maintained with families at collection and younger children had a communication book that travelled between home and the service documenting important information such as sleep needs and food intake. Staff members were observed to be respectful, gentle and kind towards the children in their care. Children were spoken to in a kind manner, first names were used, appropriate eye contact and gentle voice tones in all interactions. Children were encouraged to be kind and respectful to their peers and were praised and encouraged in all positive interactions.

Evidence of the curriculum were displayed on the walls of all the care rooms. In the Blossoms room a growing tree was displayed on the wall with individual leaves representing the children in the room stating their emerging interests. There was a focus on autumn, road safety and Halloween for the month of October, with art and crafts completed following the theme of Halloween, ghosts and pumpkins and traffic lights. Each child had a folder, to document their learnings throughout the year in line with the aistear and Siolta model. Children’s language development was supported through one to one and group discussions, songs and storytelling which were observed during the inspection. The service had a selection of books that were utilised in group sessions. On the day of inspection, the children were facilitated to make their own choice in selecting play equipment and activities that they wished to engage with. Turn taking and sharing was promoted, this was evidenced by many children working collaboratively together, unprompted.

The service promoted a healthy eating policy. Children who were availing of full day care had breakfast, dinner and evening snack provided by the service. All children brought their morning snack from home in line with the service healthy eating policy. Staff were mindful to check snacks on arrival and ensure all perishable items were stored in the fridge. The main meal on the day of inspection was spaghetti bolognese and corn on the cob. The cook on duty informed the inspector that if there was a situation that a child did not like the dinner an alternative would be given.

Sleep for the younger children was need led. Staff members responded to the cues of tiredness from the younger children. Physical checks were completed as appropriate throughout sleep times, monitoring the position, breathing and colour and temperature. Nappy changes were observed to be responsive to the needs of the child, and in line with the services nappy changing policy. Older children were encouraged to be independent when using the toilet and staff used prompts as support if necessary.



### 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 main entrance to the service was found to be secure on the inspectors unannounced arrival to the service, which prevented persons from entering the service without authorisation and children leaving without supervision.
- Cleaning products in the care rooms were stored on high shelving or child locked cupboards, out of the reach of children.
- Materials and resources were maintained in a good state of repair.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to the preschool children on the day of inspection.
- Leads and flexes were secure and inaccessible to the preschool children.

##### Infection Control:

- Adequate handwashing facilities were provided in the service with warm water, liquid soap and paper towels.
- The materials and resources throughout the preschool were visibly clean with cleaning schedules in place and up to date.
- Child friendly hand wash posters with picture instructions were placed above wash basins.
- Children were observed to wash their hands prior to mealtimes and after messy play or using the toilet.
- The service had a sterilising system for children’s soothers, and they were stored in individual containers.

##### Administration of Medication:

- Detailed support plans were in place for children who required medication. One child required an epi pen due to an allergy and the procedures around use were clearly documented.
- The adults working in the rooms demonstrated their knowledge of the procedures for the safe administration of medication when interviewed.
- Medication was stored safely out of the reach of children.

##### Safe Sleep:



- The service had one designated sleep room with a total of five standard cots.
- Children were observed to be sleeping on demand following cues and signs of tiredness throughout the day.
- Floor beds were available for older children.
- Rest areas were provided in each of the care rooms to facilitate a child to rest or to opt out of an activity.

### Fire Safety:

- Fire doors throughout the building were unobstructed.
- Fire assembly point was clearly marked in the car park.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### General Safety:

1. The water temperature of the hand washing basin in the nappy changing area measured 57°C which could pose a risk of scalding to children.
2. The metal play boat in the outdoor area had a broken protective layer, resulting in sharp pieces of metal being exposed which could result in an injury to a child.

#### Infection Control:

3. The foot operated pedal bin in the buds room was broken and the bin for disposing hand towels in the sanitary area of the year 2 ECCE room was not a foot operated bin.

#### Safe Sleep:

4. Four of the cot mattresses used by multiple children in the sleep room did not have the required waterproof cover.
5. One mattress was torn, exposing the inner foam which is a safety risk to children.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

#### General Safety:

1. The plumber to reduce the temperature to below 43 degrees. From this, the plumber has since fitted a regulator to the mains so that the water temperature in all rooms will remain below the required temperature. During our next staff meeting, we will be discussing to the staff about the importance of making note of the temperature and when or if it occurs that the staff will inform management straightaway. Also, we will be calibrating our temperature gauge regularly to ensure the correct temperature is recorded.
2. We have removed the old trim that was on the top of the boat and replaced it the whole way round with new trim which is glued in place (evidence submitted). The daily checks on the outside garden prior to going out must

be done before each room uses the outdoors, and that if there's anything that is broken or needs repairing that the staff make management aware.

**Infection Control:**

3. All broken bins in the rooms have been disposed and replaced with new bins. In relation to our cleaning sheets, we have updated them to include that the bins are regularly checked to make sure that the mechanical foot pedal is in working order. Staff have been shown that the new updated cleaning sheets which includes the mechanical foot pedal is checked and in working order.

**Safe Sleep:**

4. We have received 5 new waterproof mattresses, and we have replaced the mattresses that were originally in place with the new ones. The staff in the sleep room have been informed that if the any damages or tears to the mattresses, management needs to be informed.

**Supporting documentation submitted**

**General Safety:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Infection Control:**

Photographic evidence submitted.

**Safe Sleep:**

Documentary evidence submitted.

**Summary Comment**

The non compliances found on inspection in relation to regulation 23 have been reviewed and the actions identified in the CAPA response and supporting evidence have been accepted. This regulation is now compliant.

**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 Registered provider ensured that each child was checked in and out of the service. This was confirmed by the written attendance records maintained in each of the care rooms.

(3) (a) (b).

The registered provider ensured that any person entering the service was approved and a record in writing was maintained.

(4) The person in charge confirmed that the records were kept for the required period.

### 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) Seven adults working on the day of the inspection were trained in first aid responder (FAR) and were immediately available to the children attending the service if required. A total of ten adults working in the service were (FAR) trained with other staff trained in paediatric first aid.

(2) (a) (b).

The first aid equipment was sufficient, readily available, and safely stored in a conspicuous position in each of the care rooms.

## 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.
- (2) The record referred to in paragraph (1) shall be open to inspection by-
- (a) a parent or guardian of a pre-school child attending or proposing to attend the pre-school service,
  - (b) an employee, and
  - (c) an authorised person.
- (3) A registered provider shall ensure that a record referred to in paragraph (2) is retained for a period of 5 years after its creation
- (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) (b).

The registered provider has ensured a record of the monthly fire drills are kept within the service. A log of all fire equipment in the service is available, this including a variety of firefighting equipment of foam, CO<sup>2</sup>, water and powder extinguishers and fire blankets. The most recent servicing and maintenance of fire equipment and smoke alarms was on the 09.03.2023.

(2) The registered provider ensured that all documentation was available for inspection.

(3) There was evidence of the required documentation retained for a period of five years.

(4) Fire evacuation notice were displayed in the service. All care rooms displayed child friendly picture format evacuation notices.