

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WD084
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	The Children's House Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	22 Catherine Street, Waterford City, Co. Waterford
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<b>Eircode:</b>	X91 WD91
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Audrey Ganley-Ryan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	11/06/2024
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	12	PM	N/A
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Tusla Child and Family Agency, Early Years Inspectorate, Ely Hospital, Ferrybank, Wexford
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	E Mc Garry
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<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector
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### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

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

This part-time service is located in the centre of Waterford city. An Early Years Care and Education Scheme (ECCE) is provided to children aged between 2 and 6 years of age. The service is open from Monday to Friday from 8.45am to 12.45pm. The service is open for 38 weeks a year. A registered school age service is also provided. The premises is located in a converted terraced house with three preschool rooms and toilet accommodation. The service does not have an outdoor area but children attending the service avail of the park which is situated near the preschool service.

### Staffing

There were three staff working in the service including the registered provider who works directly with the children also. All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework.

### 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 9 Management and Recruitment (1) (2) (a) (b) (c) (d) (4),  
Regulation 11 Staffing levels (1) (2),  
Regulation 21 Equipment and Materials,  
Regulation 23 Safeguarding Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Child,  
Regulation 24 Checking in and out and record of attendance,  
Regulation 25 First aid (1) (2) (a) (b),  
Regulation 26 Fire Safety Measures,  
Regulation 28 Insurance.  
Regulation 29 Premises.

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, 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.

(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)

The registered provider was the designated person in charge on the day of the inspection and remained in the service for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

Following a discussion with the registered provider and on review of documentation, it was established that there were three staff employed in the service including the registered provider. All three files were reviewed on the day of inspection.

(a)(b)

There were four written and validated references available on file from past employers for the two staff members, and two references available on file for the registered provider which did not require to be validated.

- (c)  
Garda vetting disclosures had been obtained for all three staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every 3 years.
- (d)  
Police vetting was not required as no staff member had lived in a state other than Ireland for a period of longer than six consecutive months.
- (4)  
All staff held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 and above on the National Qualifications Framework

## 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.*

### Compliance Information

- (1)  
There was an adequate number of staff working directly with the children attending the preschool service for the duration of the inspection.
- (2)  
At 11.00am.  
There were 12 children aged 2 to 6 years of age in the care of 2 staff.

## 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 were three clearly defined areas in the service. The music room to the front of the service contained some musical instruments and a comfortable couch for children to sit on. The middle room was called the Montessori room. This room contained child sized tables and chairs. The last room was situated to the rear of the service. The floor in this room was covered in artificial grass. There was a good supply of art equipment available in the service. For example, paints, paper, brushes, crayons and colouring pencils. Montessori equipment was stored on easily accessible shelves in the service. There was a good supply of reading books for the children to enjoy. A staff member read the story book “My house is a squash and a squeeze”.

## 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

The registered provider took the following measures to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the preschool children attending the service:

#### GENERAL SAFETY

All cleaning agents were stored in a safe and secure area which was inaccessible to children. Access to the service was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival and remained secure for the duration of the inspection. There was a written procedure in place for the management of outings to the near by park as there is no outdoor play area attached to the service.

#### INFECTION CONTROL

The service appeared clean. There was liquid soap and foot controlled lidded bins available in the service. Hand washing practice was observed on the day of inspection. Children were observed washing their hands after using the toilet. All snacks were stored in the fridge.

### Non-Compliance Information

1.

There were no single use disposable hand towels in the service for children to use after washing their hands. There was a towel in communal use which staff said was washed daily. Best practice in a preschool setting requires children to use single use disposable hand towels after washing their hands to prevent cross infection in a preschool setting.

2.

The warm water flowing from the hot water tap in the children's toilet was not thermostatically controlled. The water was cold when checked by the inspector. When the hot water system was turned on after five minutes the water flowing was too hot for the inspector to touch. Staff who spoke to the inspector said they turned the water on first thing and waited for it to cool down before the children used it.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Corrective & Preventive Action

1.

As per best practice the service is now providing single use disposable hand towels in all bathrooms.

2.

The thermostat has been adjusted by the plumber to allow for warm water to be thermostatically controlled during the preschool hours.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

No supporting documentation submitted.

### Summary Comment

The response submitted is adequate to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.

## 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)

There was a staff member trained in a First Aid Responder Course available to the children during the inspection and across the roster.

(2)(a)(b)

There was a suitably equipped first aid box stored in an easily accessible and conspicuous position on the premises and was available to the children attending the preschool 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)

There was a record of fire drills that had taken place in the service. The last fire drill was recorded as having taken place in May 2024.

(b)

The annual record of the number, type and maintenance of the firefighting equipment was carried out in June 2024. The annual maintenance of the smoke alarm in the service was carried out in June 2023.

(4)

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

### 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.*

#### Compliance Information

There was a system in place for the checking in and out of children attending the service. A record of each child's attendance was kept on a daily basis and was readily available and accessible to the staff working in the service.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 28 - Insurance

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

#### Compliance Information

There was adequate insurance in place for the children who were present on the day of inspection.

## Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

### Regulation 29 - Premises

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

- (a) of sound and stable structure,*
- (b) safe and secure,*
- (c) kept adequately lit, heated and ventilated*
- (d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required, and*
- (e) equipped with adequate and suitable sanitary facilities.*

### Compliance Information

- (a)  
The registered provider reported the premises was of a sound and stable structure.
- (b)  
The premises was safe and secure. Access was gained through the front door which was secure on arrival for the duration of the inspection.
- (c)  
The service was adequately lit with electric lights as needed and all preschool rooms were equipped with openable windows.
- (d)  
The premises was clean.
- (e)  
There were two toilets and two sinks available for the children attending the service. There was a staff toilet located on the first floor of the premises.

### Non-Compliance Information

1.  
There was no water flowing from one of the two sinks directly beside the two toilets which were available for the children attending the service. Warm thermostatically controlled water is required to support handwashing in a preschool service. Two toilets and two sinks are required for the number of children the service is registered to cater for.
2.  
There was a large hole in the plaster in the preschool room to the rear of the service which needed to be repaired.

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

## **Corrective and Preventive Action**

1  
The plumber has added another connection to allow warm water to the second sink in the bathroom.

2.  
The hole in the plaster was caused by an electrician who was installing an outdoor light. This hole is now repaired.

## **Supporting documentation submitted**

No supporting documentation received.

## **Summary Comment**

The response submitted is adequate to meet the requirements of The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016.