

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WH059
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Lynn Montessori Pre-school
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	Lynn Cross, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
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<b>Eircode:</b>	N91 EA49
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Nuala Jordan
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<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	02/10/2025
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	10	PM	NA
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<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
<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

The service provides an Early Childhood Care and Education programme to children. The service operates from 09:00-12:00 on a Monday to Friday basis. The service consists of a reception area at the entrance and two interconnected pre-school rooms attached to the registered provider's home. There is an outdoor play area at the rear and front of the service. The service is based on the outskirts of Mullingar town.

### Staffing

The registered provider and a staff member were working directly with children on the 2 October 2025. The registered providers husband carries out maintenance on the premises.

### 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.

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)

A designated person in charge and a named person to deputise were available as required.

(b)

The designated person in charge was present for the duration of the inspection.

Three staff files including the registered provider were reviewed and the following was noted:

(2)(a)(b)

The required number of written validated references were available from past employers or from a source other than a previous employer in respect of the staff member and the registered providers' husband. Two written references were available in respect of the registered provider.

(c)

Garda vetting disclosures were available in respect of the 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 for one adult had lived outside the state for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The staff members working directly with children attending the service held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education Level 6 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.*

*(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)

An adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.

(3)

There were ten children attending the service being supervised directly by the registered provider and a staff member.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 15 – Record of pre-school child

*(1) A registered provider of a pre-school service other than a pre-school service in a drop-in centre or a temporary pre-school service shall ensure that a record in writing is kept in respect of each pre-school child attending the service containing the following particulars:*

- (a) the name and date of birth of the child;*
- (b) the date on which the child first attended the service;*
- (c) the date on which the child ceased to attend the service;*
- (d) the name and address of a parent or guardian of the child and a telephone number where that parent or guardian or a relative or friend of the child can be contacted during the hours of operation of the service;*
- (e) authorisation for the collection of the child;*
- (f) details of any illness, disability, allergy or special need of the child, together with all the information relevant to the provision of special care or attention;*
- (g) the name and telephone number of the child's registered medical practitioner;*
- (h) record of immunisations, if any, received by the child;*
- (i) written parental consent for appropriate medical treatment of the child in the event of an emergency.*

#### Compliance Information

Further to the corrective action and preventive action response from the previous inspection on the 26 January 2023 in a review of eleven child enrolment records information relating to (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f)(g)(h)(i) was available in respect of children attending the service.

### Part IV – Information and Records

#### Regulation 17 – Information for parents

*A registered provider shall ensure that a parent or guardian of a child proposing to attend the service is provided with the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (g) of Regulation 16(1).*

#### Compliance Information

Parent information with the required information was available in a handbook format for parents of children attending the service.

## Part IV – Information and Records

### Regulation 18 – Copy of Act etc.

*A registered provider shall ensure that a copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations is kept on the premises and the said copies shall be open to inspection on the premises by-*

- (a) a parent or guardian of a child attending or proposing to attend the service,*
- (b) an employee, unpaid worker or contractor, and*
- (c) an authorised person.*

### Compliance Information

A copy of Part VIIA (inserted by section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013 (No. 40 of 2013)) of the Act and of these Regulations was available and open to inspection by (a) (b) and (c).

## 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 enjoyed a healthy snack provided by the service consisting of ham and cheese sandwiches and fruit with milk or water to drink. Children enjoyed their snack and took their time conversing with their peers supported by the adults. Children wore aprons to protect their clothes while painting. Respiratory etiquette was observed as children were encouraged to clean their noses and clean their hands after. Children washed their hands before snacks and after using the toilet.

Children were happily engaged in the various play experiences and activities including creative, free play supported by the staff members. Children enjoyed a song and rhyme actions session in the playroom. Children enjoyed a marching exercise to music as they moved freely around the pre-school room. Children were encouraged to be independent as they put on their own coats going home and were assisted by the adults as needed.

The registered provider and staff member held children in positive regard using their individual names, interacting and conversing with children at eye level. Adults praised children on completion of activities. Minor behaviour issues were managed by staff in a calm and positive manner.

The service worked in partnership with parents in the following ways: A short messaging system (SMS) is used to send information and updates to parents. The registered provider stated a parent handbook is given to parents at the start of the pre-school term. One to one meetings are arranged with parents as required.

The interconnected pre-school rooms were bright and colourful. Low level tables and chairs were in place. Montessori equipment and age and stage appropriate toys and materials were accessible to children on low level shelving. Photographs, artwork and posters were displayed in the pre-school room.

## 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.*

*(4) Where outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access is provided on the premises of a sessional pre-school service other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, a temporary pre-school service or a pre-school service in a drop-in centre, the registered provider shall ensure that such outdoor space is suitable, safe and secure.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a)

Adequate and suitable play equipment and materials were provided in both the indoor and outdoor environments.

(b)

Soft furnishings were in place in the pre-school room for children to rest and relax.

(4)

The outdoor play area was safe and secure surrounded by fencing. A large natural grass area was noted. Toys and equipment included a swing set, a slide and a playhouse. A shed was available for the storage of toys and equipment.

## 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 to the service was safe and secure. Access to the service was by means of a doorbell. The inspector signed the visitors book on arrival. The service met the necessary safety requirements in respect of the indoor environment, toys and equipment and the safe storage of cleaning agents.

Further to the corrective action and preventive action response from previous inspection on the 26 January 2023 the temperature of the radiator in the reception area of the service was within normal limits.

##### Infection Control:

The premises was visually clean. All toys and materials were easily cleanable. Records for cleaning were available and reviewed. Warm water, hand paper towels and liquid soap was available in the sanitary accommodation in the service. The temperature of the water recorded at the wash hand basins was 33 degrees Celsius. Mechanical ventilation was working in the sanitary accommodation.

##### Administration of Medication:

Temperature reducing medication was available if a child presented with a high temperature. Medication was stored safely in the pre-school room. An emergency care plan was in place for children with a defined medical condition. The service is a nut free zone.

##### Fire Safety:

The fire emergency exits were free from obstruction in the premises.

##### Outing:

The registered provider stated the service does not undertake outings.

## 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.*

### 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.

## 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)

One adult was qualified in First Aid response (FAR) and available on the premises for the hours of operation.

(2)(a)

An equipped first aid box was located in the pre-school room.

(b)

A first aid box was accessible to adults caring for children in the pre-school 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 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)

There was a record of fire drills carried out in the service. The last fire drill was carried out on the 10 September 2025.

(b)

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

(4) Fire evacuation procedures were noted in a conspicuous location in the premises.

### 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

Children were under adult supervision when playing in the playroom and using the sanitary facilities. Children were observed to be handed over to their parent/guardian at collection time by the registered provider.

### 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 and the expiry date noted was 27 November 2025.

### 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 during the inspection.