

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015WW172
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<b>Name of Service:</b>	Charlesland Park Montessori
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<b>Address of Service:</b>	184 Charlesland Park, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
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<b>Eircode:</b>	A63 FX30
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<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Rita Byrne
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<b>Service type:</b>	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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<b>Date of Inspection:</b>	03/02/2026
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<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	31	PM	32
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<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Loughlinstown health Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin
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<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	Mona Condon
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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 service is one of three services which is operated by the registered provider. It is located in a residential area in Greystones village, County Wicklow. The service is registered to provide a full day care, part time and a sessional service for pre-school children between 0-6 years of age. The service operates between the hours of 07:30 and 18:30 and the children are cared for across four pre-school rooms depending on their age and stage of development. The Baby and Toddler 1 room are located on the ground floor and the Toddler 2 and Pre-Montessori rooms are located on the first floor. Sanitary areas are available on both floors.

### Staffing

On the day of inspection nine adults provided direct care to pre-school children. The person-in-charge was available to give assistance in the rooms as needed. Two additional staff provided relief for staff breaks. The registered provider works in an administrative role and is not present in the crèche on a daily basis.

### 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 and 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 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*

*(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 service had a designated person in charge and a named person to deputise as required who were both on the premises throughout the inspection.

(2) Seven staff files were reviewed. This included:

- Two new staff employed since last inspection
- Five staff who have been transferred from another service which is operated by the same registered provider since the last inspection.

(a)(b) There were two written and validated references available for each of the seven staff members.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for seven staff members. The service also demonstrated compliance with the Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Notice requiring services to renew Garda vetting every three years.

(d) Police vetting was available for five staff members who had lived in another state for a period of longer than six consecutive months as an adult.

(4)

All staff members who were involved in the direct care of children had 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.

### 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-*

*(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 inspector observed that staff were attentive to the personal care of the children. The children's nappies were changed routinely and if needed in between. Bibs were provided when eating to protect their clothes from becoming soiled or wet. Their noses, hands and faces were cleaned when needed. Staff used opportunities when assisting with personal care for warm individual engagement with the children.

Staff sat with the children when eating. They provided them with help when needed whilst supporting their independence. Drinks of water were offered regularly and were always available. Children attending the Baby room had individual routines for food and sleep which mirrored their home routines.

The children attending the Baby room were placed to sleep according to their individual routine or when they displayed signs of tiredness. Children attending the other rooms who required sleep slept at a designated time. The atmosphere in the rooms while children were sleeping was calm. Children's outer clothing was removed and blankets were provided. Staff provided the children with reassurance as they were settling to sleep, talking to them gently and sitting next to them. The children who used soothers were offered these.

Staff demonstrated warmth and affection in their interactions with the children. They addressed them by name, used gentle tones and interacted with them in a positive manner. The staff comforted the children when they became upset - holding them and talking to them in soft tones. The staff communicated with parents at drop-off and collection times. A written summary detailing each child's care that day was provided for parents whose children were attending the Baby Room.

A well-equipped secure area outdoors was available for use. However, the outdoor area was not used on the day of inspection due to very heavy rain.

## 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 external doors were appropriately secured to prevent the children from exiting unsupervised and to restrict unauthorised persons from gaining access to the pre-school.
- The kitchen was inaccessible to children.
- All cleaning agents were kept out of reach of children.
- Individual care plans were in place for children with specific medical needs where required.

##### Infection Control:

- Children were encouraged to wash their hands regularly, including before lunch, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Effective hand hygiene practices were observed in accordance with the service's infection control policies and procedures.
- Each child's soother was stored in individual containers and were sterilised daily.
- Cleaning schedules were maintained in each care room and the environment was clean.

##### Administration of Medication:

- No child received medication during the inspection. The staff members were knowledgeable of the procedure to be used if needed and documentation was reviewed which demonstrated that the procedure was adhered to.
- Written parental consent was available should temperature reducing medication be required to be administered to a child.
- All medication was stored in a safe place and was clearly labelled for each individual child.

##### Safe Sleep:

- On the day of inspection, a sleep log was maintained every 10 minutes by staff detailing the physical checks carried out on sleeping children under 2 years of age.
- The temperature of the sleep room and the care rooms where children slept was in the acceptable range.

### Fire Safety:

- The designated emergency exit doors were clear and unobstructed. The procedure for evacuation was on display in each room.
- Records were available of monthly fire drills carried out in the service.

### Outings:

The person-in-charge stated that no outings were undertaken from this creche.

### Non-Compliance Information

#### Safe Sleep:

1. In the Baby sleep room two cots for use by children aged 1-2 years were unsuitable. The two cots had a gap between the mattress and the cot frame at the end of the cot. One gap measured 4cms and the second gap measured 6 cm. There should be no more than 2.5cm between the mattress and the side of the cot to reduce the risk of suffocation if a child gets stuck between the mattress and the side of the cot.
2. Children aged between 15 and 23 months slept on thin mattresses which were 4cm in thickness. A floor bed is required for children of this age group and the mattress must be at least 6m in depth.

### Action submitted by the Registered Provider

#### Safe Sleep:

- 1.The two mattresses on the cots have been replaced and now fit correctly. Going forward the mattress will be checked prior to each child being placed to sleep to ensure fitting correctly.
- 2.Ten floor beds have been purchased for use by children 15 to 23 months. Going forward floor beds will be used for children aged 15-23 months.

#### Supporting documentation submitted

Receipt for the purchase of 10 Floor beds.

## Summary Comment

The registered provider has addressed the non-compliance as identified on inspection in relation to Regulation 23.

## 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)

Adults trained in First Aid Response were present and immediately available to the pre-school children.

(2)

(a) The first aid box for children was safely stored in an accessible and conspicuous position in the pre-school room.

(b) At all times the first aid box was available to the children attending 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) Documentary evidence was available that fire drills were being carried out on a monthly basis as per best practice guidelines. The last fire drill was carried out on 14/01/2026.
  - (b) Records were available detailing the number, type and maintenance of fire- fighting equipment. and smoke alarms dated March 2025 and November 2025 respectively.
  - (4) Notices were displayed detailing the procedures to be followed in the event of fire.